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[US/US]; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065-

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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): MERCK & CO., INC. [US/US]; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065-0907 (US).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): MARSH, Donald, J.

0907 (US).

(74) Common Representative: MERCK & CO., INC.; 126

East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065-0907 (US).

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(54) Title: MELANIN CONCENTRATING HORMONE RECEPTOR CHIMERIC AND FUSION PROTEINS

(57) Abstract: The present invention features melanin concentrating hormone receptor (MCH-R) chimeric and fusion proteins. MCH-R chimeric proteins comprise an MCH-R polypeptide region made up of at least two or more polypeptide regions characteristic of MCH-R found in different species. MCH-R fusion proteins comprise an MCH-R polypeptide region and a fluorescent protein region.

TITLE OF THE INVENTION MELANIN CONCENTRATING HORMONE RECEPTOR CHIMERIC AND FUSION PROTEINS

5 CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application claims priority to provisional application U.S. Serial No. 60/189,698, filed March 15, 2000, hereby incorporated by reference herein.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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The references cited herein are not admitted to be prior art to the claimed invention.

Neuropeptides present in the hypothalamus play a major role in mediating the control of body weight. (Flier et al., 1998. Cell, 92, 437-440.) Melanin-concentrating hormone (MCH) is a cyclic 19-amino acid neuropeptide synthesized as part of a larger pre-prohormone precursor in the hypothalamus which also encodes neuropeptides NEI and NGE. (Nahon et al., 1990. Mol. Endocrinol. 4, 632-637.) MCH was first identified in salmon pituitary, and in fish MCH affects melanin aggregation thus affecting skin pigmentation. In trout and in eels MCH has also been shown to be involved in stress induced or CRF-stimulated ACTH release. (Kawauchi et al., 1983. Nature 305, 321-323.)

In humans two genes encoding MCH have been identified that are expressed in the brain. (Breton et al., 1993. Mol. Brain Res. 18, 297-310.) In mammals MCH has been localized primarily to neuronal cell bodies of the hypothalamus which are implicated in the control of food intake, including perikarya of the lateral hypothalamus and zona inertia. (Knigge et al., 1996. Peptides 17, 1063-1073.)

Pharmacological and genetic evidence suggest that the primary mode of MCH action is to promote feeding (orexigenic). MCH mRNA is up regulated in fasted mice and rats and in the *ob/ob* mouse. (Qu *et al.*, 1996. *Nature 380*, 243-247.) Injection of MCH centrally (ICV) stimulates food intake and MCH antagonizes the hypophagic effects seen with α -melanocyte stimulating hormone (α MSH). (Qu *et al.*, 1996. *Nature 380*, 243-247.) MCH-deficient mice are lean, hypophagic, and have increased metabolic rate. (Shimada *et al.*, 1998. *Nature 396*, 670-673.)

MCH action is not limited to modulation of food intake as effects on the hypothalamic-pituitary-axis have been reported. (Nahon 1994. Critical Rev. in

Neurobiol. 8, 221-262.) MCH may be involved in the body response to stress as MCH can modulate the stress-induced release of CRF from the hypothalamus and ACTH from the pituitary. In addition, MCH neuronal systems may be involved in reproductive or maternal function.

Several references describe a receptor that is indicated to bind MCH. (Chambers et al., 1999. Nature 400, 261-265; Saito et al., 1999. Nature 400, 265-269; Bächner et al., 1999. FEBS Letters 457:522-524; Shimomura et al., 1999. Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications 261, 622-626; and Lembo et al., 1999. Nat. Cell Biol. 1, 267-271.)

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention features melanin concentrating hormone receptor (MCH-R) chimeric and fusion proteins. MCH-R chimeric proteins comprise an MCH-R polypeptide region made up of at least two or more polypeptide regions characteristic of MCH-R found in different species. MCH-R fusion proteins comprise an MCH-R polypeptide region and a fluorescent protein region.

An MCH-R polypeptide region provides a functional G-protein coupled receptor region able to bind MCH and transduce an intracellular signal. Examples of MCH-R polypeptide regions include naturally occurring MCH-R, chimeric MCH-R containing two or more regions from naturally occurring MCH-R, and functional derivatives thereof.

Reference to the terms "characteristic" and "derivatives thereof" describe a relationship to a reference sequence. In both cases, there is at least about 75% sequence similarity to the reference sequence.

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Thus, a first aspect of the present invention describes a fusion protein comprising (a) an MCH-R polypeptide region and (b) a fluorescent polypeptide region. The fluorescent polypeptide region is joined directly, or though a polypeptide linker, to the carboxy side of the MCH-R polypeptide region.

Another aspect of the present invention describes an MCH-R chimeric protein. The protein comprises: (a) an MCH-R binding region characteristic of a human MCH-R, (b) a transmembrane domain characteristic of a non-human MCH-R, and (c) an intracellular domain characteristic of a non-human MCH-R.

Another aspect of the present invention describes a nucleic acid encoding for an MCH-R fusion protein or an MCH-R chimeric protein described herein. Such nucleic acid comprises either a contiguous nucleotide sequence that

codes for the protein or a sequence that is processed by a host cell to produce a contiguous nucleotide sequence encoding for the protein. Processing of a nucleic acid sequence to produce a contiguous nucleotide sequence encoding for a protein can occur by the splicing together of exons resulting in intron removal.

Another aspect of the present invention describes an expression vector comprising a nucleic acid encoding for an MCH-R fusion protein or an MCH-R chimeric protein described herein.

Another aspect of the present invention describes a recombinant cell comprising nucleic acid encoding for an MCH-R fusion protein or an MCH-R chimeric protein described herein. The nucleic acid may be part of the host genome or may exist independently of the host genome.

Another aspect of the present invention describes a non-human transgenic animal comprising nucleic acid encoding for an MCH-R fusion protein or an MCH-R chimeric protein described herein.

Another aspect of the present invention describes a method for assaying for MCH-R active compounds by measuring the effect of a test preparation on one or more MCH-R activities. The method is performed using either an MCH-R fusion protein or an MCH-R chimeric protein described herein.

Other features and advantages of the present invention are apparent from the additional descriptions provided herein including the different examples. The provided examples illustrate different components and methodology useful in practicing the present invention. The examples do not limit the claimed invention. Based on the present disclosure the skilled artisan can identify and employ other components and methodology useful for practicing the present invention.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 illustrates aequorin assay results comparing a mouse MCH-R fusion with a human wild type MCH-R and a CMV-EGFP control.

Figure 2 illustrates a cAMP flashplate assay of CHO cell clones stably expressing mMCH-1R-EGFP. Cells from individual clones were dissociated in enzyme free media and stimulated for 15 minutes at 37°C with human MCH at the indicated concentrations in the presence of 10 µM forskolin. Cells were then lysed and assayed for bound [125T]cAMP. Mouse MCH-1R-EGFP clones exhibited EC50 values (0.1111, 0.1255, 0.1291, or 0.2304 nM) indistinguishable from that of a CHO cell clone expressing the wild-type human short isoform of MCH-1R (0.1282 nM).

Figure 3 illustrates a cAMP flashplate assay of CHO cell clones stably expressing human short/mouse species chimeric MCH-1R-EGFP. Cells from individual clones were dissociated in enzyme free media and stimulated for 15 minutes at 37°C with human MCH at the indicated concentrations in the presence of 10 μM forskolin. Cells were then lysed and assayed for bound [125]cAMP. Human short/mouse species chimeric MCH-1R-EGFP clones exhibited EC50 values (0.0366, 0.0462, 0.2117, or 0.2499 nM) indistinguishable from that of a CHO cell clone expressing the wild-type human short isoform of MCH-1R (0.1137 nM).

10 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

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The present invention features MCH-R chimeric and fusion proteins. Such proteins have a variety of different uses including being used as a research tool to study MCH-R function and dynamics, and being used to screen for MCH-R agonists and antagonists.

The MCH-R provides a target to achieve different beneficial effects in a patient. Preferably, MCH-R activity is modulated to achieve one or more of the following: weight loss, weight gain, treat cancer (e.g., colon or breast), reduce pain, treat diabetes, reduce stress, or teat sexual dysfunction.

Modulation of MCH-R activity can be achieved by evoking a response at the MCH receptor or by altering a response evoked by an MCH receptor agonist or antagonist. Compounds modulating MCH-R receptor activity include agonists, antagonists, and allosteric modulators. Generally, MCH-R antagonists and allosteric modulators negatively affecting activity will be used to achieve weight loss, treat cancer (e.g., colon or breast), reduce pain, reduce stress, or teat sexual dysfunction; and MCH-R agonists and allosteric modulators positively affecting activity will be used to produce a weight gain.

Preferably, MCH-R activity is modulated to achieve a weight loss or to treat diabetes in a patient. Diabetes mellitus can be treated by modulating MCH-R activity to achieve, for example, one or both of the following: enhancing glucose tolerance or decreasing insulin resistance.

Excessive body weight is a contributing factor to different diseases, including hypertension, diabetes, dyslipidemias, cardiovascular disease, gall stones, osteoarthritis, and certain forms of cancers. Bringing about a weight loss can be used, for example, to reduce the likelihood of such diseases and as part of a treatment for such diseases. Weight reduction can be achieved by modulating MCH-R activity to

obtain, for example, one or more of the following effects: reducing appetite, increasing metabolic rate, reducing fat intake, or reducing carbohydrate craving.

Increasing body weight is particularly useful for a patient having a disease or disorder, or under going a treatment, accompanied by weight loss.

Examples of diseases or disorders accompanied by weight loss include anorexia,

AIDS, wasting, cachexia, and frail elderly. Examples of treatments accompanied by weight loss include chemotherapy and radiation therapy.

MCH-R Chimeric Proteins

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MCH-R chimeric proteins contain an MCH-R polypeptide region made up by at least two or more polypeptide regions characteristic of MCH-R found in different species. The different polypeptide regions that are present provide for an N-terminal extracellular domain; a transmembrane domain made up of transmembrane regions, extracellular loop regions, and intracellular loop regions; and an intracellular carboxy terminus domain. Examples of MCH-R amino acid sequences include the following: SEQ. ID. NO. 1 (human MCH1R long form), SEQ. ID. NO. 2 (human MCH1R short form), and SEQ. ID. NO. 3 (mouse MCH1R).

Preferably, the MCH-R chimeric protein comprises an MCH-R binding region characteristic of a human MCH-R along with transmembrane and intracellular domains characteristic of a non-human MCH-R. There are substantial amino acid differences between the N-terminus of the MCH-R present in humans and that present in other species such as mice. Such differences could result in, for example, the mouse MCH-R having different intrinsic properties and responsiveness to agonists and/or antagonists than the human MCH-R. The presence of a human MCH-R binding region provides for a "humanized" MCH-R chimeric receptor.

The transmembrane and intracellular domains characteristic of a non-human MCH-R can be used in conjunction with a non-human host to provide a more naturally occurring environment for these regions. For example, an MCH-R chimeric having mouse transmembrane and intracellular domains are preferably used in murine cells lines or in transgenic mice.

MCH-R chimeric proteins may contain regions other than extracellular, transmembrane, and intracellular domains that do not substantially decrease the activity of the protein. Preferably, additional regions do not cause a decrease of more than about 25% of MCH-R activity as measured using one or more of the assays

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described in the examples provided below. Examples of additional regions that may be present include fluorescent protein regions and linker regions.

In an embodiment of the present invention, the MCH-R chimeric protein comprises: (a) an MCH binding region characteristic of a first species and (b) a transmembrane and intracellular domain region characteristic of a second species joined directly, or though a linker, to the carboxy side of the MCH binding region. Preferably, the protein comprises, consists, or consists essentially of an MCH-R polypeptide having a sequence similarity of at least about 75%, at least 85%, or at least 95% with either SEQ. ID. NO. 4 (human short form/mouse species chimeric MCH1R) or SEO. ID. NO. 5 (human long form/mouse species chimeric). Even more preferably, the protein comprises, consists essentially of, or consists of, SEQ. ID. NO. 4 or SEQ. ID. NO. 5.

Sequence similarity for polypeptides can be determined by BLAST. (Altschul et al., 1997. Nucleic Acids Res. 25, 3389-3402, hereby incorporated by reference herein.) In an embodiment of the present invention, sequence similarity is determined using tBLASTn search program with the following parameters: MATRIX:BLOSUM62, PER RESIDUE GAP COST: 11, and Lambda ratio: 1.

Differences in naturally occurring amino acids are due to different R groups. An R group effects different properties of the amino acid such as physical size, charge, and hydrophobicity. Amino acids can be divided into different groups as follows: neutral and hydrophobic (alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, proline, tryptophan, phenylalanine, and methionine); neutral and polar (glycine, serine, threonine, tyrosine, cysteine, asparagine, and glutamine); basic (lysine, arginine, and histidine); and acidic (aspartic acid and glutamic acid).

Generally, in substituting different amino acids it is preferable to exchange amino acids having similar properties. Substituting different amino acids within a particular group, such as substituting valine for leucine, arginine for lysine, and asparagine for glutamine are good candidates for not causing a change in polypeptide functioning.

Changes outside of different amino acids groups can also be made. Preferably, such changes are made taking into account the position of the amino acid to be substituted in the polypeptide. For example, arginine can substitute more freely for nonpolor amino acids in the interior of a polypeptide then glutamate because of its long aliphatic side chain. (See, Ausubel, Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, John Wiley, 1987-1998, Supplement 33 Appendix 1C.)

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MCH-R Fusion Proteins

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MCH-R fusion proteins contain an MCH-R polypeptide region and a fluorescent protein region either directly joined together or joined together through a linker. These regions provide MCH-R activity and a marker for evaluating MCH-R dynamics.

An MCH-R polypeptide region provides functional MCH-R activity and includes naturally occurring MCH-R, chimeric MCH-R, and derivatives thereof. Preferred derivatives thereof have a sequence similarity of at least about 75%, at least about 85%, or at least about 95% to a naturally occurring MCH-R or a chimeric MCH-R described herein.

A fluorescent protein region contains a chromophore that fluoresces. Preferably, the fluorescent protein region is the green fluorescent protein of the jellyfish Aequorea victoria or a derivative thereof. Preferred derivatives have a sequence similarity of at least about 75%, at least about 85%, or at least about 95% to the Aequorea victoria green fluorescent protein (GFP). The Aequorea victoria green fluorescent protein and examples of derivatives thereof are described by Cormack et al., 1996. Gene 17, 33-38; Yang et al., 1996. Nucleic Acids Research 24, 4592-4593; Tsien et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,625,048; Tsien et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,777,079; and Cormack et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,804,387 (each of which are hereby incorporated by reference herein).

In different embodiments the MCH-R polypeptide region comprises, consists essentially of, or consists of, a sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ. ID. NO. 1, SEQ. ID. NO. 2, SEQ. ID. NO. 3, SEQ. ID. NO. 4, and SEQ. ID. NO. 5; and the fluorescent polypeptide region comprises, consists essentially of, or consists of, an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ. ID.

NO. 6 (GFP), SEQ. ID. NO. 7 (EGFP), SEQ. ID. NO. 8 (Emerald), SEQ. ID. NO. 9 (Topaz), and SEQ. ID. NO. 10 (W1b). EGFP, Emerald, Topaz, and W1b are derivatives of GFP.

The optionally present linker is a polypeptide region that is preferably from 1 to about 100 amino acids in length. In different embodiments the linker is up to 75, 50 or 25 amino acids in length.

Preferably, the MCH-R fusion protein comprises, consists essentially of, or consists of, the MCH-R polypeptide region and the fluorescent polypeptide region. More preferably, the protein comprises, consists essentially of, or consists of,

an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ. ID. NO. 11 (mouse MCH1R-linker-EGFP), SEQ. ID. NO. 12 (mouse MCH1R/EGFP direct fusion), SEQ. ID. NO. 13 (human short form/mouse species chimeric MCH1R-linker-EGFP), or SEQ. ID. NO. 14 (human long form/mouse species chimeric MCH1R-linker-EGFP).

MCH-R Chimeric and Fusion Proteins Nucleic Acid and Expression

MCH-R chimeric and fusion proteins can be produced using techniques well known in the art. Preferably, such proteins are produced by recombinant expression inside a host cell by way of an expression vector or by way of nucleic acid integrated into the host genome. Examples of nucleic acid sequences encoding for MCH-R polypeptide regions, fluorescent protein regions, MCH-R chimeric proteins, and MCH-R fusion proteins are provided for by SEQ. ID. NOs. 15-29 (see Example 1, infra).

Starting with a particular amino acid sequence and the known degeneracy of the genetic code, a large number of different encoding nucleic acid sequences can be obtained. The degeneracy of the genetic code arises because almost all amino acids are encoded for by different combinations of nucleotide triplets or codons. The translation of a particular codon into a particular amino acid is well

known in the art (see, e.g., Lewin GENES IV, p. 119, Oxford University Press, 1990). Amino acids are encoded for by codons as follows:

A=Ala=Alanine: codons GCA, GCC, GCG, GCU

C=Cys=Cysteine: codons UGC, UGU

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D=Asp=Aspartic acid: codons GAC, GAU

25 E=Glu=Glutamic acid: codons GAA, GAG

F=Phe=Phenylalanine: codons UUC, UUU

G=Gly=Glycine: codons GGA, GGC, GGG, GGU

H=His=Histidine: codons CAC, CAU

I=Ile=Isoleucine: codons AUA, AUC, AUU

30 K=Lys=Lysine: codons AAA, AAG

L=Leu=Leucine: codons UUA, UUG, CUA, CUC, CUG, CUU

M=Met=Methionine: codon AUG

N=Asn=Asparagine: codons AAC, AAU

P=Pro=Proline: codons CCA, CCC, CCG, CCU

35 Q=Gln=Glutamine: codons CAA, CAG

R=Arg=Arginine: codons AGA, AGG, CGA, CGC, CGG, CGU S=Ser=Serine: codons AGC, AGU, UCA, UCC, UCG, UCU

T=Thr=Threonine: codons ACA, ACC, ACG, ACU V=Val=Valine: codons GUA, GUC, GUG, GUU

W=Trp=Tryptophan: codon UGGY=Tyr=Tyrosine: codons UAC, UAU

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Examples of techniques for introducing nucleic acid into a cell and expressing the nucleic acid to produce protein are provided in references such as Ausubel, *Current Protocols in Molecular Biology*, John Wiley, 1987-1998, and Sambrook, *et al.*, in *Molecular Cloning*, *A Laboratory Manual*, 2nd Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, 1989.

An expression vector contains recombinant nucleic acid encoding for a polypeptide along with regulatory elements for proper transcription and processing. The recombinant nucleic acid contains two or more nucleic acid regions not naturally associated with each other. Exogenous regulatory elements such as an exogenous promoter can be useful for expressing recombinant nucleic acid in a particular host. Examples of expression vectors are cloning vectors, modified cloning vectors, specifically designed plasmids, and viruses.

Generally, the regulatory elements that are present in an expression vector include a transcriptional promoter, a ribosome binding site, a terminator, and an optionally present operator. Another preferred element is a polyadenylation signal providing for processing in eukaryotic cells. Preferably, an expression vector also contains an origin of replication for autonomous replication in a host cell, a selectable marker, a limited number of useful restriction enzyme sites, and a potential for high copy number.

Expression vectors providing suitable levels of polypeptide expression in different hosts are well known in the art. Mammalian expression vectors well known in the art include pcDNA3 (Invitrogen), pMC1neo (Stratagene), pXT1 (Stratagene), pSG5 (Stratagene), EBO-pSV2-neo (ATCC 37593), pBPV-1(8-2) (ATCC 37110), pdBPV-MMTneo(342-12) (ATCC 37224), pRSVgpt (ATCC 37199), pRSVneo (ATCC 37198), pSV2-dhfr (ATCC 37146), pUCTag (ATCC 37460), pCI-neo (Promega) and .lambda.ZD35 (ATCC 37565). Bacterial expression vectors well known in the art include pET11a (Novagen), lambda gt11 (Invitrogen), pcDNAII (Invitrogen), and pKK223-3 (Pharmacia). Fungal cell expression vectors well known

in the art include pYES2 (Invitrogen) and Pichia expression vector (Invitrogen). Insect cell expression vectors well known in the art include Blue Bac III (Invitrogen).

Recombinant host cells may be prokaryotic or eukaryotic. Examples of recombinant host cells include the following: bacteria such as *E. coli*; fungal cells such as yeast; mammalian cells such as human, bovine, porcine, monkey, hampster, and rodent; and insect cells such as Drosophila and silkworm derived cell lines. Commercially available mammalian cell lines include L cells L-M(TK.sup.-) (ATCC CCL 1.3), L cells L-M (ATCC CCL 1.2), 293 (ATCC CRL 1573), Raji (ATCC CCL 86), CV-1 (ATCC CCL 70), COS-1 (ATCC CRL 1650), COS-7 (ATCC CRL 1651), CHO-K1 (ATCC CCL 61), 3T3 (ATCC CCL 92), NIH/3T3 (ATCC CRL 1658), HeLa (ATCC CCL 2), C127I (ATCC CRL 1616), BS-C-1 (ATCC CCL 26) and MRC-5 (ATCC CCL 171).

To enhance expression in a particular host it may be useful to modify the sequence to take into account codon usage of the host. Codon usage of different organisms are well known in the art. (See, Ausubel, *Current Protocols in Molecular Biology*, John Wiley, 1987-1998, Supplement 33 Appendix 1C.)

Expression vectors may be introduced into host cells using standard techniques. Examples of such techniques include transformation, transfection, lipofection, protoplast fusion, and electroporation.

Nucleic acid encoding for a polypeptide can be expressed in a cell without the use of an expression vector employing, for example, synthetic mRNA or native mRNA. Additionally, mRNA can be translated in various cell-free systems such as wheat germ extracts and reticulocyte extracts, as well as in cell based systems, such as frog oocytes. Introduction of mRNA into cell based systems can be achieved, for example, by microinjection.

Techniques for producing transgenic animals are well known in the art. Examples of such techniques are provided for by Teratocarcinomas and embryonic stem cells: a practical approach. Ed. By E. J. Robertson, IRL Press Limited, Oxford, England (1987); and Gene Targeting: a practical approach. Ed. By A. L. Joyner, Oxford University Press Inc. New York, NY (1993).

G-Protein Coupled Receptor Assays

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MCH-R is G-protein coupled receptor. Techniques for measuring different G-protein activities, such as Gi/o, Gs, and Gq are well known in the art. MCH-R activity is preferably assayed for by measuring either Gi/o or Gq.

Gi/o and Gs activity can be measured using techniques such as a melonaphore assay, measuring cAMP production, measuring inhibition of cAMP accumulation, and measuring binding of ³⁵S-GTP. cAMP can be measured using different techniques such as radioimmunoassay and indirectly by cAMP responsive gene reporter proteins.

Gq activity can be measured using techniques such as those measuring intracellular Ca²⁺. Examples of techniques well known in the art that can be employed to measure Ca²⁺ include the use of dyes such as Fura-2 and the use of Ca²⁺-bioluminescent sensitive reporter proteins such as aequorin. An example of a cell line employing aequorin to measure G-protein activity is HEK293/aeq17. (Button et al., 1993. Cell Calcium 14, 663-671, and Feighner et al., 1999. Science 284, 2184-2188, both of which are hereby incorporated by reference herein.)

Functional assays can be performed using individual compounds or preparations containing different compounds. A preparation containing different compounds where one or more compounds affect MCH-R chimeric or fusion protein activity can be divided into smaller groups of compounds to identify the compound(s) affecting MCH-R chimeric or fusion protein activity. In an embodiment of the present invention a test preparation containing at least 10 compounds is used in a functional assay.

20 Functional assays can be performed using recombinantly produced MCH-R chimeric or fusion protein present in different environments. Such environments include, for example, cell extracts and purified cell extracts containing the MCH-R chimeric or fusion protein expressed from recombinant nucleic acid and an appropriate membrane for the polypeptide; and the use of a purified MCH-R chimeric or fusion protein produced by recombinant means that is introduced into a different environment suitable for measuring G-protein activity.

Fluorescent Protein Assays

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Fluorescent protein joined to an MCH receptor can be employed to study different aspects of receptor dynamics including receptor sequestration, receptor densitization, and receptor localization. The fluorescent protein can be used in *in vitro* or *in vivo* systems.

In vitro applications of fluorescent proteins can be performed using techniques well known in the art. Examples of such techniques are provided by Barak et al., 1997. Mol Pharm. 5, 177-184; Tarasova et al., 1997. J. Biol. Chem. 272,

14817-14824; Lin et al., 1998. Mol. Cell. Endo. 146, 27-37; Tarasova et al., 1998. J. Biol. Chem. 273, 15883-15886; Kallal et al., 1998. J. Biol. Chem. 273, 322-328; Groake et al., 1999. J. Biol. Chem. 274, 23263-23269; Doherty et al., 1999. Biochem. J. 341, 415-422; Brock et al., 1999. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 96, 10123-10128; Cornea et al., 1999. Endocrinology 140, 4272-4280; and Lembo et al., 1999. Nat. Cell Biol. 1, 267-271 (these references are not admitted to be prior art to the claimed invention).

In vivo applications of fluorescent proteins can be performed using techniques well known in the art. Examples of such techniques are provided by Mombaerts et al., 1996. Cell 87, 675-686; Rodriquez et al., 1999. Cell 97, 199-208; Spergel et al., 1999. J. Neurosci. I, 2037-2050; and Zuo et al., 1999. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 96, 14100-14105 (these references are not admitted to be prior art to the claimed invention).

15 EXAMPLES

Examples are provided below to further illustrate different features and advantages of the present invention. The examples also illustrate useful methodology for practicing the invention. These examples do not limit the claimed invention.

20 <u>Example 1:</u>

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Amino acid and nucleic acid sequence information for SEQ. ID. NOs. 1-29 are provided below. SEQ. ID. NOs. 1-29 include examples of polypeptide and encoding nucleic acid sequences for MCH-R polypeptide regions, fluorescent polypeptide regions, fusion proteins and chimeric proteins. In some cases the encoding nucleic acid is shown with additional nucleic acid upsteam or downstream from an open reading frame.

SEO. ID. NO. 1: Human long form MCH1R

MSVGAMKKGVGRAVGLGGGSGCQATEEDPLPNCGACAPGQGGRRWRLPQP AWVEGSSARLWEQATGTGWMDLEASLLPTGPNASNTSDGPDNLTSAGSPPR TGSISYINIIMPSVFGTICLLGIIGNSTVIFAVVKKSKLHWCNNVPDIFIINLSVVD LLFLLGMPFMIHQLMGNGVWHFGETMCTLITAMDANSQFTSTYILTAMAIDR YLATVHPISSTKFRKPSVATLVICLLWALSFISITPVWLYARLIPFPGGAVGCGI RLPNPDTDLYWFTLYQFFLAFALPFVVITAAYVRILQRMTSSVAPASQRSIRLR



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TKRVTRTAIAICLVFFVCWAPYYVLQLTQLSISRPTLTFVYLYNAAISLGYANS CLNPFVYIVLCETFRKRLVLSVKPAAQGQLRAVSNAQTADEERTESKGT

SEQ. ID. NO. 2: Human short form MCH1R

5 MDLEASILPTGPNASNTSDGPDNLTSAGSPPRTGSISYINIMPSVFGTICLLGIIG
NSTVIFAVVKKSKLHWCNNVPDIFIINLSVVDLLFLLGMPFMIHQLMGNGVWH
FGETMCTLITAMDANSQFTSTYILTAMAIDRYLATVHPISSTKFRKPSVATLVI
CLLWALSFISITPVWLYARLIPFPGGAVGCGIRLPNPDTDLYWFTLYQFFLAFA
LPFVVITAAYVRILQRMTSSVAPASQRSIRLRTKRVTRTAIAICLVFFVCWAPY
VVLOLTOLSISRPTLTFVYLYNAAISLGVANSCLNBEVVNAGCETERVENARI

10 YVLQLTQLSISRPTLTFVYLYNAAISLGYANSCLNPFVYIVLCETFRKRLVLSV KPAAQGQLRAVSNAQTADEERTESKGT

SEQ. ID. NO. 3: Mouse MCH1R

MDLQASILSTGPNASNISDGQDNFTLAGPPPRTRSVSYINIIMPSVFGTICLLGI
VGNSTVIFAVVKKSKLHWCSNVPDIFIINLSVVDLLFLLGMPFMIHQLMGNGV
WHFGETMCTLITAMDANSQFTSTYILTAMAIDRYLATVHPISSTKFRKPSMAT
LVICLLWALSFISITPVWLYARLIPFPGGAVGCGIRLPNPDTDLYWFTLYQFFLA
FALPFVVITAAYVKILQRMTSSVAPASQRSIRLRTKRVTRTAIAICLVFFVCWA
PYYVLQLTQLSISRPTLTFVYLYNAAISLGYANSCLNPFVYIVLCETFRKRLVLS

20 VKPAAQGQLRTVSNAQTADEERTESKGT

SEQ. ID. NO. 4: Human short form/mouse species chimeric MCH1R MDLEASLLPTGPNASNTSDGPDNLTSAGSPPRTGSISYINIIMPSVFGTICLLGIIG NSTVIFAVVKKSKLHWCNNVPDIFIINLSVVDLLFLLGMPFMIHQLMGNGVWH FGETMCTLITAMDANSQFTSTYILTAMAIDRYLATVHPISSTKFRKPSMATLVI CLLWALSFISITPVWLYARLIPFPGGAVGCGIRLPNPDTDLYWFTLYOFFLARA

CLLWALSFISITPVWLYARLIPFPGGAVGCGIRLPNPDTDLYWFTLYQFFLAFA LPFVVITAAYVKILQRMTSSVAPASQRSIRLRTKRVTRTAIAICLVFFVCWAPY YVLQLTQLSISRPTLTFVYLYNAAISLGYANSCLNPFVYIVLCETFRKRLVLSV KPAAQGQLRTVSNAQTADEERTESKGT

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SEQ. ID. NO. 5: Human long form/mouse species chimeric MCH1R
MSVGAMKKGVGRAVGLGGGSGCQATEEDPLPNCGACAPGQGGRRWRLPQP
AWVEGSSARLWEQATGTGWMDLEASLLPTGPNASNTSDGPDNLTSAGSPPR
TGSISYINIIMPSVFGTICLLGIIGNSTVIFAVVKKSKLHWCNNVPDIFIINLSVVD
LLFLLGMPFMIHQLMGNGVWHFGETMCTLITAMDANSQFTSTYILTAMAIDR

YLATVHPISSTKFRKPSMATLVICLLWALSFISITPVWLYARLIPFPGGAVGCGI RLPNPDTDLYWFTLYQFFLAFALPFVVITAAYVKILQRMTSSVAPASQRSIRLR TKRVTRTAIAICLVFFVCWAPYYVLQLTQLSISRPTLTFVYLYNAAISLGYANS CLNPFVYIVLCETFRKRLVLSVKPAAQGQLRTVSNAQTADEERTESKGT

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SEQ. ID. NO. 6: GFP

MSKGEELFTGVVPILVELDGDVNGHKFSVSGEGEGDATYGKLTLKFICTTGKL PVPWPTLVTTFSYGVQCFSRYPDHMKQHDFFKSAMPEGYVQERTIFFKDDGN YKTRAEVKFEGDTLVNRIELKGIDFKEDGNILGHKLEYNYNSHNVYIMADKQ KNGIKVNFKIRHNIEDGSVQLADHYQQNTPIGDGPVLLPDNHYLSTQSALSKD PNEKRDHMVLLEFVTAAGITHGMDELYK

SEQ. ID. NO. 7: EGFP

MVSKGEELFTGVVPILVELDGDVNGHKFSVSGEGEGDATYGKLTLKFICTTGK

LPVPWPTLVTTLTYGVQCFSRYPDHMKQHDFFKSAMPEGYVQERTIFFKDDG
NYKTRAEVKFEGDTLVNRIELKGIDFKEDGNILGHKLEYNYNSHNVYIMADK
QKNGIKVNFKIRHNIEDGSVQLADHYQQNTPIGDGPVLLPDNHYLSTQSALSK
DPNEKRDHMVLLEFVTAAGITLGMDELYK

20 SEQ. ID. NO. 8: Emerald

Met Val Ser Lys Gly Glu Glu Leu Phe Thr Gly Val Val Pro Ile Leu Val Glu Leu Asp Gly Asp Val Asn Gly His Lys Phe Ser Val Ser Gly Glu Gly Glu Gly Asp Ala Thr Tyr Gly Lys Leu Thr Leu Lys Phe Ile Cys Thr Thr Gly Lys Leu Pro Val Pro Trp Pro Thr Leu Val Thr Thr Leu Thr Tyr Gly Val Gln Cys Phe Ala Arg Tyr Pro Asp His Met Lys Gln His Asp Phe Phe Lys Ser Ala Met Pro Glu Gly Tyr Val Gln Glu Arg Thr Ile Phe Phe Lys Asp Asp Gly Asn Tyr Lys Thr Arg Ala Glu Val Lys Phe Glu Gly Asp Thr Leu Val Asn Arg Ile Glu Leu Lys Gly Ile Asp Phe Lys Glu Asp Gly Asn Ile Leu Gly His Lys Leu Glu Tyr Asn Tyr Asn Ser His Lys Val Tyr Ile Thr Ala Asp Lys Gln Lys Asn Gly Ile Lys Val Asn Phe Lys Thr Arg His Asn Ile Glu Asp Gly Ser Val Gln Leu Ala Asp His Tyr Gln Gln Asn Thr Pro Ile Gly Asp Gly Pro Val Leu Leu Pro Asp Asn His Tyr Leu Ser Thr Gln Ser Ala Leu Ser Lys Asp Pro Asn Glu Lys Arg Asp His Met Val Leu Leu Glu Phe Val Thr Ala Ala Gly Ile Thr Leu Gly Met Asp Glu Leu Tyr Lys

SEQ. ID. NO. 9: Topaz

Met Val Ser Lys Gly Glu Glu Leu Phe Thr Gly Val Val Pro Ile Leu Val Glu Leu Asp Gly Asp Val Asn Gly His Lys Phe Ser Val Ser Gly Glu Gly Glu Gly Asp Ala Thr Tyr Gly Lys Leu Thr Leu Lys Phe Ile Cys Thr Thr Gly Lys Leu Pro Val Pro Trp Pro Thr

Leu Val Thr Thr Phe Gly Tyr Gly Val Gln Cys Phe Ala Arg Tyr Pro Asp His Met Arg Gln His Asp Phe Phe Lys Ser Ala Met Pro Glu Gly Tyr Val Gln Glu Arg Thr Ile Phe Phe Lys Asp Asp Gly Asn Tyr Lys Thr Arg Ala Glu Val Lys Phe Glu Gly Asp Thr Leu Val Asn Arg Ile Glu Leu Lys Gly Ile Asp Phe Lys Glu Asp Gly Asn Ile Leu Gly His Lys Leu Glu Tyr Asn Tyr Asn Ser His Asn Val Tyr Ile Met Ala Asp Lys Gln Lys

Asn Gly Ile Lys Val Asn Phe Lys Ile Arg His Asn Ile Glu Asp Gly Ser Val Gln Leu Ala Asp His Tyr Gln Gln Asn Thr Pro Ile Gly Asp Gly Pro Val Leu Leu Pro Asp Asn His Tyr Leu Ser Tyr Gln Ser Ala Leu Ser Lys Asp Pro Asn Glu Lys Arg Asp His Met Val Leu Glu Phe Val Thr Ala Ala Gly Ile Thr Leu Gly Met Asp Glu Leu Tyr Lys

15 SEQ. ID. NO. 10: W1B

Met Val Ser Lys Gly Glu Glu Leu Phe Thr Gly Val Val Pro Ile Leu Val Glu Leu Asp Gly Asp Val Asn Gly His Arg Phe Ser Val Ser Gly Glu Gly Glu Gly Asp Ala Thr Tyr Gly Lys Leu Thr Leu Lys Phe Ile Cys Thr Thr Gly Lys Leu Pro Val Pro Trp Pro Thr Leu Val Thr Thr Leu Thr Trp Gly Val Gln Cys Phe Ser Arg Tyr Pro Asp His Met Lys Gln His Asp Phe Phe Lys Ser Ala Met Pro Glu Gly Tyr Val Gln Glu Arg Thr Ile Phe Phe Lys Asp Asp Gly Asn Tyr Lys Thr Arg Ala Glu Val Lys Phe Glu Gly Asp Thr Leu Val Asn Arg Ile Glu Leu Lys Gly Ile Asp Phe Lys Glu Asp Gly Asn Ile Leu Gly His Lys Leu Glu Tyr Asn Tyr Ile Ser His Asn Val Tyr Ile Thr Ala Asp Lys Gln Lys Asn Gly Ile Lys Ala His Phe Lys Ile Arg His Asn Ile Glu Asp Gly Ser Val Gln Leu Ala Asp His Tyr Gln Gln Asn Thr Pro Ile Gly Asp Gly Pro Val Leu Leu Pro Asp Asn His Tyr Leu Ser Thr Gln Ser Ala Leu Ser Lys Asp Pro Asn Glu Lys Arg Asp His Met Val Leu Leu Glu Phe Val Thr Ala Ala Gly Ile Thr Leu Gly Met Asp Glu Leu Tyr Lys

SEQ. ID. NO. 11: Mouse MCH1R-linker-EGFP

30 MDLQASLLSTGPNASNISDGQDNFTLAGPPPRTRSVSYINIIMPSVFGTICLLGI VGNSTVIFAVVKKSKLHWCSNVPDIFIINLSVVDLLFLLGMPFMIHQLMGNGV WHFGETMCTLITAMDANSQFTSTYILTAMAIDRYLATVHPISSTKFRKPSMAT LVICLLWALSFISITPVWLYARLIPFPGGAVGCGIRLPNPDTDLYWFTLYQFFLA FALPFVVITAAYVKILQRMTSSVAPASQRSIRLRTKRVTRTAIAICLVFFVCWA PYYVLQLTQLSISRPTLTFVYLYNAAISLGYANSCLNPFVYIVLCETFRKRLVLS

VKPAAQGQLRTVSNAQTADEERTESKGTVDGTAGPGSIATMVSKGEELFTGV
VPILVELDGDVNGHKFSVSGEGEGDATYGKLTLKFICTTGKLPVPWPTLVTTL
TYGVQCFSRYPDHMKQHDFFKSAMPEGYVQERTIFFKDDGNYKTRAEVKFE
GDTLVNRIELKGIDFKEDGNILGHKLEYNYNSHNVYIMADKQKNGIKVNFKIR
HNIEDGSVQLADHYQQNTPIGDGPVLLPDNHYLSTQSALSKDPNEKRDHMVL
LEFVTAAGITLGMDELYK

SEQ. ID. NO. 12: Mouse MCH1R/EGFP direct fusion

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MDLQASLLSTGPNASNISDGQDNFTLAGPPPRTRSVSYINIIMPSVFGTICLLGI
VGNSTVIFAVVKKSKLHWCSNVPDIFIINLSVVDLLFLLGMPFMIHQLMGNGV
WHFGETMCTLITAMDANSQFTSTYILTAMAIDRYLATVHPISSTKFRKPSMAT
LVICLLWALSFISITPVWLYARLIPFPGGAVGCGIRLPNPDTDLYWFTLYQFFLA
FALPFVVITAAYVKILQRMTSSVAPASQRSIRLRTKRVTRTAIAICLVFFVCWA
PYYVLQLTQLSISRPTLTFVYLYNAAISLGYANSCLNPFVYIVLCETFRKRLVLS
VKPAAQGQLRTVSNAQTADEERTESKGTMVSKGEELFTGVVPILVELDGDVN
GHKFSVSGEGEGDATYGKLTLKFICTTGKLPVPWPTLVTTLTYGVQCFSRYPD
HMKQHDFFKSAMPEGYVQERTIFFKDDGNYKTRAEVKFEGDTLVNRIELKGI
DFKEDGNILGHKLEYNYNSHNVYIMADKQKNGIKVNFKIRHNIEDGSVQLAD
HYQQNTPIGDGPVLLPDNHYLSTQSALSKDPNEKRDHMVLLEFVTAAGITLG
MDELYK

SEQ. ID. NO. 13: Human short form/mouse species chimeric MCH1R-linker-EGFP

MDLEASILPTGPNASNTSDGPDNLTSAGSPPRTGSISYINIIMPSVFGTICLLGIIG
25 NSTVIFAVVKKSKLHWCNNVPDIFIINLSVVDLLFLLGMPFMIHQLMGNGVWH
FGETMCTLITAMDANSQFTSTYILTAMAIDRYLATVHPISSTKFRKPSMATLVI
CLLWALSFISITPVWLYARLIPFPGGAVGCGIRLPNPDTDLYWFTLYQFFLAFA
LPFVVITAAYVKILQRMTSSVAPASQRSIRLRTKRVTRTAIAICLVFFVCWAPY
YVLQLTQLSISRPTLTFVYLYNAAISLGYANSCLNPFVYIVLCETFRKRLVLSV
30 KPAAQGQLRTVSNAQTADEERTESKGTVDGTAGPGSIATMVSKGEELFTGVV
PILVELDGDVNGHKFSVSGEGEGDATYGKLTLKFICTTGKLPVPWPTLVTTLT
YGVQCFSRYPDHMKQHDFFKSAMPEGYVQERTIFFKDDGNYKTRAEVKFEG
DTLVNRIELKGIDFKEDGNILGHKLEYNYNSHNVYIMADKQKNGIKVNFKIRH
NIEDGSVQLADHYQQNTPIGDGPVLLPDNHYLSTQSALSKDPNEKRDHMVLL
35 EFVTAAGITLGMDELYK

SEQ. ID. NO. 14: Human long form/mouse species chimeric MCH1R-linker-EGFP

MSVGAMKKGVGRAVGLGGGSGCQATEEDPLPNCGACAPGQGGRRWRLPQP

5 AWVEGSSARLWEQATGTGWMDLEASLLPTGPNASNTSDGPDNLTSAGSPPR
TGSISYINIIMPSVFGTICLLGIIGNSTVIFAVVKKSKLHWCNNVPDIFIINLSVVD
LLFLLGMPFMIHQLMGNGVWHFGETMCTLITAMDANSQFTSTYILTAMAIDR
YLATVHPISSTKFRKPSMATLVICLLWALSFISITPVWLYARLIPFPGGAVGCGI
RLPNPDTDLYWFTLYQFFLAFALPFVVITAAYVKILQRMTSSVAPASQRSIRLR
10 TKRVTRTAIAICLVFFVCWAPYYVLQLTQLSISRPTLTFVYLYNAAISLGYANS
CLNPFVYIVLCETFRKRLVLSVKPAAQGQLRTVSNAQTADEERTESKGTVDGT
AGPGSIATMVSKGEELFTGVVPILVELDGDVNGHKFSVSGEGEGDATYGKLT
LKFICTTGKLPVPWPTLVTTLTYGVQCFSRYPDHMKQHDFFKSAMPEGYVQE
RTIFFKDDGNYKTRAEVKFEGDTLVNRIELKGIDFKEDGNILGHKLEYNYNSH
15 NVYIMADKQKNGIKVNFKIRHNIEDGSVQLADHYQQNTPIGDGPVLLPDNHY
LSTQSALSKDPNEKRDHMVLLEFVTAAGITLGMDELYK

SEQ. ID. NO. 15: Human long form MCH1R cDNA

ATGTCAGTGGGAGCCATGAAGAAGGGAGTGGGGAGGGCAGTTGGGCTTG 20 GAGGCGGCAGCTGCCAGGCTACGGAGGAAGACCCCCTTCCCAACTGC GGGCTTGCGCTCCGGGACAAGGTGGCAGGCGCTGGAGGCTGCCGCAGC CTGCGTGGGTGGAGGGGAGCTCAGCTCGGTTGTGGGAGCAGGCGACCGG CACTGGCTGGATGGACCTGGAAGCCTCGCTGCTGCCCACTGGTCCCAACG CCAGCAACACCTCTGATGGCCCCGATAACCTCACTTCGGCAGGATCACCT 25 CCTCGCACGGGAGCATCTCCTACATCAACATCATCATGCCTTCGGTGTTC GGCACCATCTGCCTCCTGGGCATCATCGGGAACTCCACGGTCATCTTCGCG GTCGTGAAGAAGTCCAAGCTGCACTGGTGCAACAACGTCCCCGACATCTT CATCATCAACCTCTCGGTAGTAGATCTCCTCTTTCTCCTGGGCATGCCCTT CATGATCCACCAGCTCATGGGCAATGGGGTGTGGCACTTTGGGGAGACCA TGTGCACCCTCATCACGGCCATGGATGCCAATAGTCAGTTCACCAGCACC 30 TACATCCTGACCGCCATGGCCATTGACCGCTACCTGGCCACTGTCCACCCC ATCTCTTCCACGAAGTTCCGGAAGCCCTCTGTGGCCACCCTGGTGATCTGC CTCCTGTGGGCCCTCTCCTTCATCAGCATCACCCCTGTGTGGCTGTATGCC AGACTCATCCCCTTCCCAGGAGGTGCAGTGGGCTGCGGCATACGCCTGCC 35 CAACCCAGACACTGACCTCTACTGGTTCACCCTGTACCAGTTTTTCCTGGC

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SEQ. ID. NO. 16: Human short form MCH1R cDNA

ATGGACCTGGAAGCCTCGCTGCTGCCCACTGGTCCCAATGCCAGCAACAC CTCTGATGGCCCCGATAACCTCACTTCGGCAGGATCACCTCCTCGCACGG GGAGCATCTCCTACATCAACATCATCATGCCTTCGGTGTTCGGCACCATCT GCCTCCTGGGCATCATCGGGAACTCCACGGTCATCTTCGCGGTCGTGAAG 15 AAGTCCAAGCTGCACTGGTGCAACAACGTCCCCGACATCTTCATCATCAA CCTCTCGGTAGTAGATCTCCTCTTTCTCCTGGGCATGCCCTTCATGATCCA CCAGCTCATGGGCAATGGGGTGTGGCACTTTGGGGAGACCATGTGCACCC TCATCACGGCCATGGATGCCAATAGTCAGTTCACCAGCACCTACATCCTG ACCGCCATGGCCATTGACCGCTACCTGGCCACTGTCCACCCCATCTCTTCC 20 ACGAAGTTCCGGAAGCCCTCTGTGGCCACCCTGGTGATCTGCCTCCTGTGG GCCCTCTCCTTCATCAGCATCACCCCTGTGTGGCTGTATGCCAGACTCATC CCCTTCCCAGGAGGTGCAGTGGGCTGCGGCATACGCCTGCCCAACCCAGA CACTGACCTCTACTGGTTCACCCTGTACCAGTTTTTCCTGGCCTTTGCCCTG CCTTTTGTGGTCATCACAGCCGCATACGTGAGGATCCTGCAGCGCATGAC 25 GTCCTCAGTGGCCCCCGCCTCCCAGCGCAGCATCCGGCTGCGGACAAAGA GGGTGACCCGCACAGCCATCGCCATCTGTCTGGTCTTCTTTGTGTGCTGGG CACCCTACTATGTGCTACAGCTGACCCAGTTGTCCATCAGCCGCCCGACCC TCACCTTTGTCTACTTATACAATGCGGCCATCAGCTTGGGCTATGCCAACA GCTGCCTCAACCCCTTTGTGTACATCGTGCTCTGTGAGACGTTCCGCAAAC 30 GCTTGGTCCTGTCGGTGAAGCCTGCAGCCCAGGGGCAGCTTCGCGCTGTC AGCAACGCTCAGACGGCTGACGAGGAGGAGACAGAAAGCAAAGGCACCT GA

SEQ. ID. NO. 17: Mouse MCH1R cDNA

Nucleic acid sequence start and stop codons are highlighted: GGCGGTAGAGGAAGACCCTTTTCTGGACTGCGGGGCTCAAGCTCCGGACA 5 CGCTCCACTCCAGGGAGCAGGCGACCTGCACCGGCTGCATGGATCTGCAA GCCTCGTTGCTGTCCACTGGCCCCAATGCCAGCAACATCTCCGATGGCCA GGATAATTTCACATTGGCGGGCCACCTCCTCGCACAAGGAGTGTCTCCT ACATCAACATCATGCCTTCAGTGTTTGGTACCATCTGTCTCCTGGGCA TTGTGGGAAACTCCACAGTCATTTTTGCCGTGGTGAAGAAATCCAAGCTG CACTGGTGCAGCAACGTCCCTGACATCTTCATCATCAACCTCTCTGTGGTG 10 GATCTGCTTTTCCTGCTGGGCATGCCTTTCATGATCCACCAGCTCATGGGT AATGGTGTCTGGCACTTTGGGGAAACCATGTGCACCCTCATCACAGCCAT GGACGCCAACAGTCAGTTCACCAGCACCTACATCCTGACTGCTATGGCCA TTGACCGCTACTTGGCCACCGTCCATCCCATCTCCTCCACCAAGTTCCGGA 15 AGCCCTCCATGGCCACCCTGGTGATCTGCCTCCTGTGGGCTCTCTCGTTCA TTAGCATCACTCCTGTGTGGCTCTATGCCAGGCTTATCCCCTTCCCAGGGG GTGCTGTGGGCTGTGGCATCCGCCTACCAAACCCAGATACTGATCTTTACT GGTTCACTCTGTATCAGTTTTTCCTGGCCTTCGCCCTTCCGTTTGTGGTCAT CACTGCTGCGTACGTGAAAATACTACAGCGCATGACGTCTTCGGTGGCCC 20 CAGCCTCTCAACGCAGCATCCGGCTTCGGACAAGAGGGGTGACCCGCACA GCCATTGCCATCTGTCTGGTCTTCTTTGTGTGCTGGGCGCCCTACTACGTG CTGCAGCTGACCCAGTTGTCCATCAGCCGCCCGACCCTCACATTCGTCTAC CTGTACAATGCGGCCATCAGCTTGGGCTATGCCAACAGCTGCCTCAATCC CTTTGTGTACATAGTACTCTGTGAGACCTTTCGAAAACGCTTGGTGCTGTC GGTGAAGCCCGCGGCCCAGGGGCAGCTTCGCACGGTCAGCAATGCTCAGA 25 CAGCTGACGAGGAGGACAGAAAGCAAAGGCACCTGACAATCCCCCCC GGTCACCTCCAAGTCAGGTCACCGCATCAAACCATGGGGAGAGATACTGA GATAAACCCGGGGCTACCCTGGGAGGATGCAGAAGCTGGAGGCTGGGGG CTTGTAGCAAACCACATTCCACGGGGCCCACAAATTGCTAGGGAGGCTTG 30 CAGCCTGGTTTGGGGGGAAGCCTCAGACTGCAGGGATCCCCTTGACAGA ATAGAAGCGAGCAAGAAGGAAAGGGTGGTTTGACTGGTTCTCGGGGTCT GTATCTGTTGGCTCGCATATATCTTTCTCTCAAGGGAAGAAGGCGGAGGT GCCTAGCTGGGTTCCTTTAAAACTAGGCAGGGCTAGGATCTGAGCAGCTA

GGTGTTGATAGAAGGCAGTCTTTCTCCCAAGCTGGTGGATCTCCTGAAGC

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ACGCTGCCTGGGCTCCAGCATCCTGTGCGGATTTCACGTTCTCTTTAGGGG
ATGCATGTTGACACTGGGGTGTGGGCTCTGAGCCCACAGGAGTTTAAAAA
ACCAAAAGAGCTCAGAGTGTCGAGAGAGACCCAATCACCGAGAATGACA
AGGCAACCTGGGGTGGATGTGGATCTTGAAACTAATAAAAAGGGGTTTTC
ACAGTGACAGCGACATTCTCTTCATAGGGCACAGCTGTCAGTCTATGGCT
GATCCAGAGCGAGCATCCATGAATTCTGCATGTGCAGGGGTCACTCTAAT
ACCTGATATGTTGGCATCATCTTTGTGCTTGAGCCTTCCNCTCCCAAATGG
GAATGAAATAAAGGCAAATTCCCNCCCCCCCCAAAAAAAGGGGNAAAAAA

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SEO. ID. NO. 18: Mouse MCH1R genomic DNA

Nucleic acid sequence start and stop codons, as well as intron borders, are highlighted:

GGCGGTAGAGGAAGACCCTTTTCTGGACTGCGGGGCTCAAGCTCCGGACA 15 CGCTCCACTCCAGGGAGCAGGCGACCTGCACCGGCTGCATGGATCTGCAA GCCTCGTTGCTGTCCACTGGCCCCAATGCCAGCAACATCTCCGATGGCCA GGATGGGTGTGGAAAATGGGAAGGTTTCACCTCCCAAGCCAAACTGCCTG GGAAACTTTATCTTACAGTTCTTGGTGATAAGATCTGCAGTCGGCTTTGCC 20 TGAAGAGGAAGAGGAGGGGGACACCAGCTAGGACAGAAGGGGCA GGGAGGAATAGAGATGGGGCAGAGGCACATTTAGAAACAACAAGGGTTG GTGACAAGACGTGAGGCAGGCTTGAGGGGAAAGCTTGCTGATGAGTCCCA AATATGCTTTGCAGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGAATCAAGGCTGGAGAAGCAA GCAAGCAAGACAGCAAGACAGCGGGCGGGTAGTATGTGGGAGCCAGCAG 25 AAGCGCTTTGATTCACCGCTATCCTGGGCTCAATCCTCTGGCCTCGCACTG GGGAAATGGGGTCTGAGTGGTCCTTGCTGTCTTCTGGCAAAGGCTGCTGG GAGCAAAAGACTTCACAGGGCGTGAGAGGATTAACTTTTCTGGTGAATTA AGCTTCTTGACATTTGCAGAACGTCAATGCCTTAAAATTCTAGCTCTGAAG GAGAAGGGAATGAAGGGGAAAGAGGGAAGGTTGGTGGAGAAATTCCC 30 CAGACTCAGGAGACATGGTCCAAGGAAATCCCTGACAGAAAACCGGGAG AGGGCAGGGCTGTGGAGCCTGAAACACACCCCACACCCATGGTGACAGTC 35

ACACACACACACACACACACACACACACAAATGTCCTTCAAGCC TTTTTGACAAGGTTTTCTGGTGGATCCCGGGGATATGAAGTTGTTCTCAGC AGATATCTGGGAGTCTTGACTCCTGGCCCTCTGAGTAAATGGATGAAGCG AAGAAGAATGGGGTCCTCTGAGTAACAGGTGGATCTAGAAAATCCTATAG GAGTCACCAGGGCACGGTGGAGGAGGGTAAGGTACAGAACTAACAATAG 5 CCCGAGAAGGGGAAACAGCAGGAGATGATTCCAGAGACGTAGTGACCCC AAGCTGCAAGGGAAAGCATGAGGGGCCAGCAGGAAGGCCGACATGGCAG GTTGTCAGCTTCTAGATCGGAAGGCGGGTCACACTTGCTCTTTCTATCCTC AGGGCCACCTCCTCGCACAAGGAGTGTCTCCTACATCAACATCATCATGC 10 CTTCAGTGTTTGGTACCATCTGTCTCCTGGGCATTGTGGGAAACTCCACAG TCATTTTTGCCGTGGTGAAGAAATCCAAGCTGCACTGGTGCAGCAACGTC CCTGACATCTTCATCATCAACCTCTCTGTGGTGGATCTGCTTTTCCTGCTGG GCATGCCTTTCATGATCCACCAGCTCATGGGTAATGGTGTCTGGCACTTTG 15 ACCAGCACCTACATCCTGACTGCTATGGCCATTGACCGCTACTTGGCCACC GTCCATCCCATCTCCACCAAGTTCCGGAAGCCCTCCATGGCCACCCTG GTGATCTGCCTCCTGTGGGCTCTCTCGTTCATTAGCATCACTCCTGTGTGG CTCTATGCCAGGCTTATCCCCTTCCCAGGGGGTGCTGTGGGCTGTGGCATC CGCCTACCAAACCCAGATACTGATCTTTACTGGTTCACTCTGTATCAGTTT 20 TTCCTGGCCTTCGCTTTGTGGTCATCACTGCTGCGTACGTGAAA ATACTACAGCGCATGACGTCTTCGGTGGCCCCAGCCTCTCAACGCAGCAT TCTTCTTTGTGTGCTGGGCGCCCTACTACGTGCTGCAGCTGACCCAGTTGT CCATCAGCCGCCCGACCCTCACATTCGTCTACCTGTACAATGCGGCCATCA 25 GCTTGGGCTATGCCAACAGCTGCCTCAATCCCTTTGTGTACATAGTACTCT GTGAGACCTTTCGAAAACGCTTGGTGCTGTCGGTGAAGCCCGCGGCCCAG GGGCAGCTTCGCACGGTCAGCAATGCTCAGACAGCTGACGAGGAGAGGA CAGAAAGCAAAGCACCTGACAATCCCCCCGGTCACCTCCAAGTCAGGT CACCGCATCAAACCATGGGGAGAGATACTGAGATAAACCCGGGGCTACC 30 CTGGGAGGATGCAGAAGCTGGAGGCTGGGGGCTTGTAGCAAACCACATTC AGCCTCAGACTGCAGGGATCCCCTTGACAGAATAGAAGCGGAGCAAGAA GGAAAGGGTGGTTTGACTGGTTCTCGGGGTCTGTATCTGTTGGCTCGCATA TATCTTTCTCAAGGGAAGAAGGCGGAGGTGCCTAGCTGGGTTCCTTTA AAACTAGGCAGGCTAGGATCTGAGCAGCTAGGGCTCTACTGTGAGACTG 35

SEO. ID. NO. 19: Human short form/mouse species chimeric MCH1R

ATGGACCTGGAAGCCTCGCTGCTGCCCACTGGTCCCAATGCCAGCAACAC CTCTGATGGCCCCGATAACCTCACTTCGGCAGGATCACCTCCTCGCACGG 15 GGAGCATCTCCTACATCAACATCATCATGCCTTCGGTGTTCGGCACCATCT GCCTCCTGGGCATCATCGGGAACTCCACGGTCATCTTCGCGGTCGTGAAG AAGTCCAAGCTGCACTGGTGCAACAACGTCCCCGACATCTTCATCATCAA CCTCTCGGTAGTAGATCTCCTCTTTCTCCTGGGCATGCCCTTCATGATCCA CCAGCTCATGGGCAATGGGGTGTGGCACTTTGGGGAGACCATGTGCACCC 20 TCATCACGGCCATGGATGCCAATAGTCAGTTCACCAGCACCTACATCCTG ACCGCCATGGCCATTGACCGCTACCTGGCCACTGTCCACCCCATCTCTTCC ACGAAGTTCCGGAAGCCCTCCATGGCCACCCTGGTGATCTGCCTCCTGTG GGCTCTCTCGTTCATTAGCATCACTCCTGTGTGGCTCTATGCCAGGCTTAT CCCTTCCCAGGGGTGCTGTGGGCTGTGGCATCCGCCTACCAAACCCAG 25 ATACTGATCTTTACTGGTTCACTCTGTATCAGTTTTTCCTGGCCTTCGCCCT TCCGTTTGTGGTCATCACTGCTGCGTACGTGAAAATACTACAGCGCATGAC GTCTTCGGTGGCCCCAGCCTCTCAACGCAGCATCCGGCTTCGGACAAAGA GGGTGACCCGCACAGCCATTGCCATCTGTCTGGTCTTCTTTGTGTGCTGGG CGCCTACTACGTGCTGCAGCTGACCCAGTTGTCCATCAGCCGCCCGACC 30 CTCACATTCGTCTACCTGTACAATGCGGCCATCAGCTTGGGCTATGCCAAC AGCTGCCTCAATCCCTTTGTGTACATAGTACTCTGTGAGACCTTTCGAAAA CGCTTGGTGCTGTCGGTGAAGCCCGCGGCCCAGGGGCAGCTTCGCACGGT CAGCAATGCTCAGACAGCTGACGAGGAGAGGACAGAAAGCAAAGGCACC

TGA

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SEQ. ID. NO. 20: Human long form/mouse species chimeric MCH1R ATGTCAGTGGGAGCCATGAAGAAGGGAGTGGGGAGGGCAGTTGGGCTTG GAGGCGGCAGCGCCAGGCTACGGAGGAAGACCCCCTTCCCAACTGC 5 GGGGCTTGCGCTCCGGGACAAGGTGGCAGGCGCTGGAGGCTGCCGCAGC CTGCGTGGGTGGAGGGGAGCTCAGCTCGGTTGTGGGAGCAGGCGACCGG CACTGGCTGGATGGACCTGGAAGCCTCGCTGCTGCCCACTGGTCCCAACG CCAGCAACACCTCTGATGGCCCCGATAACCTCACTTCGGCAGGATCACCT CCTCGCACGGGGAGCATCTCCTACATCAACATCATCATGCCTTCGGTGTTC 10 GGCACCATCTGCCTCCTGGGCATCATCGGGAACTCCACGGTCATCTTCGCG GTCGTGAAGAAGTCCAAGCTGCACTGGTGCAACAACGTCCCCGACATCTT CATCATCAACCTCTCGGTAGTAGATCTCCTCTTTCTCCTGGGCATGCCCTT CATGATCCACCAGCTCATGGGCAATGGGGTGTGGCACTTTGGGGAGACCA TGTGCACCCTCATCACGGCCATGGATGCCAATAGTCAGTTCACCAGCACC TACATCCTGACCGCCATGGCCATTGACCGCTACCTGGCCACTGTCCACCCC 15 ATCTCTTCCACGAAGTTCCGGAAGCCCTCCATGGCCACCCTGGTGATCTGC CTCCTGTGGGCTCTCGTTCATTAGCATCACTCCTGTGTGGCTCTATGCC AGGCTTATCCCCTTCCCAGGGGGTGCTGTGGGCTGTGGCATCCGCCTACCA AACCCAGATACTGATCTTTACTGGTTCACTCTGTATCAGTTTTTCCTGGCCT 20 TCGCCCTTCCGTTTGTGGTCATCACTGCTGCGTACGTGAAAATACTACAGC GCATGACGTCTTCGGTGGCCCCAGCCTCTCAACGCAGCATCCGGCTTCGG ACAAAGAGGGTGACCCGCACAGCCATTGCCATCTGTCTGGTCTTCTTTGTG TGCTGGGCGCCCTACTACGTGCTGCAGCTGACCCAGTTGTCCATCAGCCGC CCGACCCTCACATTCGTCTACCTGTACAATGCGGCCATCAGCTTGGGCTAT 25 GCCAACAGCTGCCTCAATCCCTTTGTGTACATAGTACTCTGTGAGACCTTT CGAAAACGCTTGGTGCTGTCGGTGAAGCCCGCGGCCCAGGGGCAGCTTCG CACGGTCAGCAATGCTCAGACAGCTGACGAGGAGAGGACAGAAAGCAAA GGCACCTGA

30 SEQ. ID. NO. 21: Aequorea victoria Green Fluorescent Protein (GFP) cDNA Nucleic acid sequence start and stop codons are highlighted: TACACACGAATAAAAGATAACAAAGATGAGTAAAGGAGAAGAACTTTTC ACTGGAGTTGTCCCAATTCTTGTTGAATTAGATGGTGATGTTAATGGGCAC AAATTTTCTGTCAGTGGAGAGGGTGAAGGTGATGCAACATACGGAAAACT TACCCTTAAATTTATTTGCACTACTGGAAAACTACCTGTTCCATGGCCAAC

ACTTGTCACTACTTTCTCTTATGGTGTTCAATGCTTTTCAAGATACCCAGAT CATATGAAACAGCATGACTITTTCAAGAGTGCCATGCCCGAAGGTTATGT ACAGGAAAGAACTATATTTTTCAAAGATGACGGGAACTACAAGACACGTG CTGAAGTCAAGTTTGAAGGTGATACCCTTGTTAATAGAATCGAGTTAAAA GGTATTGATTTTAAAGAAGATGGAAACATTCTTGGACACAAATTGGAATA GAATCAAAGTTAACTTCAAAATTAGACACAACATTGAAGATGGAAGCGTT CAACTAGCAGACCATTATCAACAAAATACTCCAATTGGCGATGGCCCTGT CCTTTTACCAGACAACCATTACCTGTCCACACAATCTGCCCTTTCGAAAGA TCCCAACGAAAAGAGAGACCACATGGTCCTTCTTGAGTTTGTAACAGCTG 10 CCAATTGACACTAAAGTGTCCGAACAATTACTAAAATCTCAGGGTTCCTG GTTAAATTCAGGCTGAGATATTATTTATATATTTATAGATTCATTAAAATT GTATGAATAATTTATTGATGTTATTGATAGAGGTTATTTCTTATTAAACA GGCTACTTGGAGTGTATTCTTAATTCTATATTAATTACAATTTGATTTGACT 15 **TGCTCAAA**

SEQ. ID. NO. 22: EGFP + Linker

Nucleic acid sequence start and stop codons are highlighted and a 12 amino acid

- 20 linker sequence is denoted in lower case: gtcgacggtaccgcgggcccgggatccatcgccaccATGGTGAGCAAGGGCGAGGAGCTGTT CACCGGGGTGGTGCCCATCCTGGTCGAGCTGGACGGCGACGTAAACGGCC ACAAGTTCAGCGTGTCCGGCGAGGGCGAGGGCGATGCCACCTACGGCAA GCTGACCCTGAAGTTCATCTGCACCACCGGCAAGCTGCCCGTGCCCTGGC 25 CCACCCTCGTGACCACCCTGACCTACGGCGTGCAGTGCTTCAGCCGCTAC CCCGACCACATGAAGCAGCACGACTTCTTCAAGTCCGCCATGCCCGAAGG CTACGTCCAGGAGCGCACCATCTTCTTCAAGGACGACGGCAACTACAAGA CCCGCGCCGAGGTGAAGTTCGAGGGCGACACCCTGGTGAACCGCATCGAG CTGAAGGGCATCGACTTCAAGGAGGACGCAACATCCTGGGGCACAAGC
- TGGAGTACAACTACAACAGCCACAACGTCTATATCATGGCCGACAAGCAG
 AAGAACGGCATCAAGGTGAACTTCAAGATCCGCCACAACATCGAGGACG
 GCAGCGTGCAGCTCGCCGACCACTACCAGCAGAACACCCCCATCGGCGAC
 GGCCCCGTGCTGCTGCCCGACAACCACTACCTGAGCACCAGTCCGCCCT
 GAGCAAAGACCCCAACGAGAAGCGCGATCACATGGTCCTGCTGGAGTTCG

TGACCGCCGCGGGATCACTCTCGGCATGGACGAGCTGTACAAGTAAAGC GGCCGC

SEQ. ID. NO. 23: Emerald

ATGGTGAGCAAGGGCGAGGAGCTGTTCACCGGGGTGGTGCCCATCCTGGT 5 CGAGCTGGACGGCGACGTAAACGGCCACAAGTTCAGCGTGTCCGGCGAG GGCGAGGCGATGCCACCTACGGCAAGCTGACCCTGAAGTTCATCTGCAC CACCGGCAAGCTGCCCGTGCCCTGGCCCACCCTCGTGACCACCTTGACCT ACGCCGTGCAGTGCTTCGCCCGCTACCCCGACCACATGAAGCAGCACGAC TTCTTCAAGTCCGCCATGCCCGAAGGCTACGTCCAGGAGCGCACCATCTTC 10 TTCAAGGACGACGCAACTACAAGACCCGCGCGAGGTGAAGTTCGAGG GCGACACCCTGGTGAACCGCATCGAGCTGAAGGGCATCGACTTCAAGGAG GACGGCAACATCCTGGGGCACAAGCTGGAGTACAACTACAACAGCCACA AGGTCTATATCACCGCCGACAAGCAGAAGAACGGCATCAAGGTGAACTTC 15 AAGACCCGCCACAACATCGAGGACGCCACGCGTGCAGCTCGCCGACCACT ACCAGCAGAACACCCCCATCGGCGACGGCCCCGTGCTGCTGCCCGACAAC CACTACCTGAGCACCCAGTCCGCCCTGAGCAAAGACCCCAACGAGAAGCG CGATCACATGGTCCTGGAGTTCGTGACCGCCGCCGGGATCACTCTCG GCATGGACGAGCTGTACAAGTAA

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SEQ. ID. NO. 24: Topaz

CGAGCTGGACGCGACGTAAACGGCCACAAGTTCAGCGTGTCCGGCGAG
GGCGAGGGCGATGCCACCTACGGCAAGCTGACCCTGAAGTTCATCTGCAC
CACCGGCAAGCTGCCCGTGCCCTGGCCCACCCTCGTGACCACCTTCGGCT
ACGGCGTGCAGTGCTTCGCCCGCTACCCCGACCACATGCGCCAGCACGAC
TTCTTCAAGTCCGCCATGCCCGAAGGCTACGTCCAGGAGCGCACCATCTTC
TTCAAGGACGACGGCAACTACAAGACCCGCGCGGAGGTGAAGTTCGAGG
GCGACACCCTGGTGAACCGCATCGAGCTGAAGGGCATCGACTTCAAGGAG
GACGGCAACATCCTGGGGCACAAGCTGGAGTACAACTACAACAGCCACA
ACGTCTATATCATGGCCGACAAGCAGAAGAACGGCATCAAGGTGAACTTC
AAGATCCGCCACAACATCGAGGACGGCAGCGTGCAGCTCGCCGACCACTA
CCAGCAGAACACCCCCATCGGCGACGGCCCCGTGCTGCTCCCCGACAACC

ATGGTGAGCAAGGGCGAGGAGCTGTTCACCGGGGTGGTGCCCATCCTGGT

GATCACATGGTCCTGCAGTTCGTGACCGCCGCCGGGATCACTCTCGG CATGGACGAGCTGTACAAGTAA

SEQ. ID. NO. 25: W1B

ATGGTGAGCAAGGGCGAGGAGCTGTTCACCGGGGTGGTGCCCATCCTGGT CGAGCTGGACGCGACGTAAACGGCCACAGGTTCAGCGTGTCCGGCGAG GGCGAGGGCGATGCCACCTACGGCAAGCTGACCCTGAAGTTCATCTGCAC CACCGGCAAGCTGCCCGTGCCCTGGCCCACCCTCGTGACCACCCTGACCT GGGGCGTGCAGTGCTTCAGCCGCTACCCCGACCACATGAAGCAGCACGAC TTCTTCAAGTCCGCCATGCCCGAAGGCTACGTCCAGGAGCGTACCATCTTC 10 TTCAAGGACGACGCAACTACAAGACCCGCGCCGAGGTGAAGTTCGAGG GCGACACCCTGGTGAACCGCATCGAGCTGAAGGGCATCGACTTCAAGGAG GACGCCAACATCCTGGGGCACAAGCTGGAGTACAACTACATCAGCCACA ACGTCTATATCACCGCCGACAAGCAGAAGAACGGCATCAAGGCCCACTTC AAGATCCGCCACAACATCGAGGACGGCAGCGTGCAGCTCGCCGACCACTA 15 CCAGCAGAACACCCCCATCGGCGACGGCCCCGTGCTGCTGCCCGACAACC ACTACCTGAGCACCCAGTCCGCCCTGAGCAAAGACCCCAACGAGAAGCGC GATCACATGGTCCTGCTGGAGTTCGTGACCGCCGCCGGGATCACTCTCGG CATGGACGAGCTGTACAAGTAA

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SEQ. ID. NO. 26: Mouse MCH1R-linker-EGFP

Nucleic acid sequence start codon and start and stop codons for mouse MCH1R and EGFP, respectively, as well as intron borders, are highlighted and a 12 amino acid linker sequence is denoted in lower case:

- 35 TGGCCTCGCACTGGGGAAATGGGGTCTGAGTGGTCCTTGCTGTCTTCTGGC

AAAGGCTGCTGGGAGCAAAAGACTTCACAGGGCGTGAGAGGATTAACTTT TCTGGTGAATTAAGCTTCTTGACATTTGCAGAACGTCAATGCCTTAAAATT CTAGCTCTGAAGGAAAGGGAATGAAGGGGAAAGAGGGAAGGTTGGTGT GGAGAAATTCCCAAGCTTCTGGGGTGTAACACAGCTCCAGTCCCTACCCT 5 ATTGGGAAAGCCCAGACTCAGGAGACATGGTCCAAGGAAATCCCTGACA GAAAACCGGGAGAGGGCAGGGCTGTGGAGCCTGAAACACACCCCACACC CATGGTGACAGTCACTTCTCACATATGCCTAGGAACCTATCTGAAACCTTT TGTCCTTCAAGCCTTTTTGACAAGGTTTTCTGGTGGATCCCGGGGATATGA 10 AGTTGTTCTCAGCAGATATCTGGGAGTCTTGACTCCTGGCCCTCTGAGTAA ATGGATGAAGCGAAGAAGAATGGGGTCCTCTGAGTAACAGGTGGATCTA GAAAATCCTATAGGAGTCACCAGGGCACGGTGGAGGAGGGTAAGGTACA GAACTAACAATAGCCCGAGAAGGGGAAACAGCAGGAGATGATTCCAGAG 15 ACGTAGTGACCCCAAGCTGCAAGGGAAAGCATGAGGGCCCAGCAGGAAG GCCGACATGGCAGGTTGTCAGCTTCTAGATCGGAAGGCGGGTCACACTTG CTCTTTCTATCCTCAGGGCCACCTCCTCGCACAAGGAGTGTCTCCTACATC AACATCATCATGCCTTCAGTGTTTTGGTACCATCTGTCTCCTGGGCATTGTG GGAAACTCCACAGTCATTTTTGCCGTGGTGAAGAAATCCAAGCTGCACTG 20 GTGCAGCAACGTCCCTGACATCTTCATCATCAACCTCTCTGTGGTGGATCT GCTTTTCCTGCTGGGCATGCCTTTCATGATCCACCAGCTCATGGGTAATGG TGTCTGGCACTTTGGGGAAACCATGTGCACCCTCATCACAGCCATGGACG CCAACAGTCAGTTCACCAGCACCTACATCCTGACTGCTATGGCCATTGACC GCTACTTGGCCACCGTCCATCCCATCTCCTCCACCAAGTTCCGGAAGCCCT CCATGGCCACCCTGGTGATCTGCCTCCTGTGGGCTCTCTCGTTCATTAGCA 25 TCACTCCTGTGTGGCTCTATGCCAGGCTTATCCCCTTCCCAGGGGGTGCTG TGGGCTGTGGCATCCGCCTACCAAACCCAGATACTGATCTTTACTGGTTCA CTCTGTATCAGTTTTTCCTGGCCTTCGCCCTTCCGTTTGTGGTCATCACTGC TGCGTACGTGAAAATACTACAGCGCATGACGTCTTCGGTGGCCCCAGCCT 30 CTCAACGCAGCATCCGGCTTCGGACAAAGAGGGTGACCCGCACAGCCATT GCCATCTGTCTGTGTGTGTGTGCTGGGCGCCCTACTACGTGCTGCAG CTGACCCAGTTGTCCATCAGCCGCCGACCCTCACATTCGTCTACCTGTAC AATGCGGCCATCAGCTTGGGCTATGCCAACAGCTGCCTCAATCCCTTTGTG TACATAGTACTCTGTGAGACCTTTCGAAAACGCTTGGTGCTGTCGGTGAA 35 GCCCGCGCCCAGGGCAGCTTCGCACGGTCAGCAATGCTCAGACAGCTG

35

ACGAGGAGAGGACAGAAAGCAAAGGCACCgtcgacggtaccgcggggcccgggatccatcg ccaccATGGTGAGCAAGGGCGAGGAGCTGTTCACCGGGGTGGTGCCCATCC TGGTCGAGCTGGACGCGACGTAAACGGCCACAAGTTCAGCGTGTCCGGC GAGGGCGAGGCGATGCCACCTACGGCAAGCTGACCCTGAAGTTCATCTG C'ACCACCGGCAAGCTGCCCGTGCCCTGGCCCACCCTCGTGACCACCCTGA 5 CCTACGGCGTGCAGTGCTTCAGCCGCTACCCCGACCACATGAAGCAGCAC GACTTCTTCAAGTCCGCCATGCCCGAAGGCTACGTCCAGGAGCGCACCAT CTTCTTCAAGGACGACGCAACTACAAGACCCGCGCGAGGTGAAGTTCG AGGGCGACACCCTGGTGAACCGCATCGAGCTGAAGGGCATCGACTTCAAG GAGGACGCCAACATCCTGGGGCACAAGCTGGAGTACAACTACAACAGCC 10 ACAACGTCTATATCATGGCCGACAAGCAGAAGAACGGCATCAAGGTGAA CTTCAAGATCCGCCACAACATCGAGGACGGCAGCGTGCAGCTCGCCGACC ACTACCAGCAGAACACCCCCATCGGCGACGGCCCCGTGCTGCTGCCCGAC AACCACTACCTGAGCACCCAGTCCGCCCTGAGCAAAGACCCCAACGAGAA GCGCGATCACATGGTCCTGCTGGAGTTCGTGACCGCCGCCGGGATCACTC 15 **TCGGCATGGACGAGCTGTACAAGTAA**

SEQ. ID. NO. 27: Mouse MCH1R/EGFP direct fusion

Nucleic acid sequence start codon and start and stop codons for mouse MCH1R and EGFP, respectively, as well as intron borders, are highlighted: 20 **ATGGATCTGCAAGCCTCGTTGCTGTCCACTGGCCCCAATGCCAGCAACAT** CTCCGATGGCCAGGATAATTTCACATTGGCGGGTGAGTCGAGTTGGAGTC CTCCCTCCGGGATGGGTGTGGAAAATGGGAAGGTTTCACCTCCCAAG CCAAACTGCCTGGGAAACTTTATCTTACAGTTCTTGGTGATAAGATCTGCA GTCGGCTTTGCCTGAAGAGGAAGAGGAGGAGGGGGACACCAGCTAGGA 25 CAGAAGGGCAGGGAGGAATAGAGATGGGGCAGAGGCACATTTAGAAAC AACAAGGGTTGGTGACAAGACGTGAGGCAGGCTTGAGGGGAAAGCTTGC CTGGAGAAGCAAGCAAGACAGCAAGACAGCGGGCGGTAGTATGT GGGAGCCAGCAGAAGCGCTTTGATTCACCGCTATCCTGGGCTCAATCCTC 30 TGGCCTCGCACTGGGGAAATGGGGTCTGAGTGGTCCTTGCTGTCTTCTGGC AAAGGCTGCTGGGAGCAAAAGACTTCACAGGGCGTGAGAGGATTAACTTT TCTGGTGAATTAAGCTTCTTGACATTTGCAGAACGTCAATGCCTTAAAATT CTAGCTCTGAAGGAGAAGGGAATGAAGGGGAAAGAGGGTTGGTGT

GGAGAAATTCCCAAGCTTCTGGGGTGTAACACAGCTCCAGTCCCTACCCT

ATTGGGAAAGCCCAGACTCAGGAGACATGGTCCAAGGAAATCCCTGACA GAAAACCGGGAGAGGGCAGGGCTGTGGAGCCTGAAACACACCCCACACC CATGGTGACAGTCACTTCTCACATATGCCTAGGAACCTATCTGAAACCTTT TGTCCTTCAAGCCTTTTTGACAAGGTTTTCTGGTGGATCCCGGGGATATGA AGTTGTTCTCAGCAGATATCTGGGAGTCTTGACTCCTGGCCCTCTGAGTAA ATGGATGAAGCGAAGAAGAATGGGGTCCTCTGAGTAACAGGTGGATCTA GAAAATCCTATAGGAGTCACCAGGGCACGGTGGAGGAGGGTAAGGTACA GAACTAACAATAGCCCGAGAAGGGGAAACAGCAGGAGATGATTCCAGAG 10 ACGTAGTGACCCCAAGCTGCAAGGGAAAGCATGAGGGCCCAGCAGGAAG GCCGACATGGCAGGTTGTCAGCTTCTAGATCGGAAGGCGGGTCACACTTG CTCTTTCTATCCTCAGGGCCACCTCCTCGCACAAGGAGTGTCTCCTACATC AACATCATCATGCCTTCAGTGTTTGGTACCATCTGTCTCCTGGGCATTGTG GGAAACTCCACAGTCATTTTTGCCGTGGTGAAGAAATCCAAGCTGCACTG 15 GTGCAGCAACGTCCCTGACATCTTCATCATCAACCTCTCTGTGGTGGATCT GCTTTTCCTGCTGGGCATGCCTTTCATGATCCACCAGCTCATGGGTAATGG TGTCTGGCACTTTGGGGAAACCATGTGCACCCTCATCACAGCCATGGACG CCAACAGTCAGTTCACCAGCACCTACATCCTGACTGCTATGGCCATTGACC GCTACTTGGCCACCGTCCATCCCATCTCCTCCACCAAGTTCCGGAAGCCCT 20 CCATGGCCACCCTGGTGATCTGCCTCCTGTGGGCTCTCTCGTTCATTAGCA TCACTCCTGTGTGGCTCTATGCCAGGCTTATCCCCTTCCCAGGGGGTGCTG TGGGCTGTGGCATCCGCCTACCAAACCCAGATACTGATCTTTACTGGTTCA CTCTGTATCAGTTTTTCCTGGCCTTCGCCCTTCCGTTTGTGGTCATCACTGC TGCGTACGTGAAAATACTACAGCGCATGACGTCTTCGGTGGCCCCAGCCT 25 CTCAACGCAGCATCCGGCTTCGGACAAAGAGGGTGACCCGCACAGCCATT GCCATCTGTCTGGTCTTCTTTGTGTGCTGGGCGCCCTACTACGTGCTGCAG CTGACCCAGTTGTCCATCAGCCGCCCGACCCTCACATTCGTCTACCTGTAC AATGCGGCCATCAGCTTGGGCTATGCCAACAGCTGCCTCAATCCCTTTGTG TACATAGTACTCTGTGAGACCTTTCGAAAACGCTTGGTGCTGTCGGTGAA 30 GCCCGCGGCCCAGGGGCAGCTTCGCACGGTCAGCAATGCTCAGACAGCTG ACGAGGAGAGGACAGAAAGCAAAGGCACCATGGTGAGCAAGGGCGAGG AGCTGTTCACCGGGGTGGTGCCCATCCTGGTCGAGCTGGACGGCGACGTA AACGGCCACAAGTTCAGCGTGTCCGGCGAGGGCGAGGGCGATGCCACCT ACGCAAGCTGACCTGAAGTTCATCTGCACCACCGGCAAGCTGCCCGTG

CCCTGGCCCACCCTCGTGACCACCCTGACCTACGGCGTGCAGTGCTTCAG
CCGCTACCCCGACCACATGAAGCAGCACGACTTCTTCAAGTCCGCCATGC
CCGAAGGCTACGTCCAGGAGCGCACCATCTTCTTCAAGGACGACGCAAC
TACAAGACCCGCGCCGAGGTGAAGTTCGAGGGCGACACCCTGGTGAACC

GCATCGAGCTGAAGGGCATCGACTTCAAGGAGGACGCAACATCCTGGG
GCACAAGCTGGAGTACAACTACAACAGCCACAACGTCTATATCATGGCCG
ACAAGCAGAAGAACGGCATCAAGGTGAACTTCAAGATCCGCCACAACAT
CGAGGACGGCAGCGTGCAGCTCGCCGACCACTACCAGCAGAACACCCC
ATCGGCGACGGCCCCGTGCTGCTGCCCGACAACCTACCTGAGCACCAC

10 GTCCGCCCTGAGCAAAGACCCCAACGAGAAGCGCGATCACATGGTCCTGC
TGGAGTTCGTGACCGCCGCCGGGGATCACTCCGGCAGACGCTGTAC

SEQ. ID. NO. 28: Human short form/mouse species chimeric MCH1R-linker-

15 EGFP

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Nucleic acid sequence start codon and start and stop codons for mouse MCH1R and EGFP, respectively, are highlighted and a 12 amino acid linker sequence is denoted in lower case:

- **ATGGACCTGGAAGCCTCGCTGCTGCCCACTGGTCCCAATGCCAGCAACAC** CTCTGATGGCCCCGATAACCTCACTTCGGCAGGATCACCTCCTCGCACGG 20 GGAGCATCTCCTACATCAACATCATCATGCCTTCGGTGTTCGGCACCATCT GCCTCCTGGGCATCATCGGGAACTCCACGGTCATCTTCGCGGTCGTGAAG AAGTCCAAGCTGCACTGGTGCAACAACGTCCCCGACATCTTCATCAA CCTCTCGGTAGTAGATCTCCTCTTTCTCCTGGGCATGCCCTTCATGATCCA CCAGCTCATGGGCAATGGGGTGTGGCACTTTGGGGAGACCATGTGCACCC 25 TCATCACGGCCATGGATGCCAATAGTCAGTTCACCAGCACCTACATCCTG ACCGCCATGGCCATTGACCGCTACCTGGCCACTGTCCACCCCATCTCTTCC ACGAAGTTCCGGAAGCCCTCCATGGCCACCCTGGTGATCTGCCTCCTGTG GGCTCTCTCGTTCATTAGCATCACTCCTGTGTGGCTCTATGCCAGGCTTAT CCCCTTCCCAGGGGTGCTGTGGGCTGTGGCATCCGCCTACCAAACCCAG 30 ATACTGATCTTTACTGGTTCACTCTGTATCAGTTTTTCCTGGCCTTCGCCCT TCCGTTTGTGGTCATCACTGCTGCGTACGTGAAAATACTACAGCGCATGAC GTCTTCGGTGGCCCCAGCCTCTCAACGCAGCATCCGGCTTCGGACAAAGA GGGTGACCCGCACAGCCATTGCCATCTGTCTGGTCTTCTTTGTGTGCTGGG
 - CGCCTACTACGTGCTGCAGCTGACCCAGTTGTCCATCAGCCGCCCGACC

CTCACATTCGTCTACCTGTACAATGCGGCCATCAGCTTGGGCTATGCCAAC AGCTGCCTCAATCCCTTTGTGTACATAGTACTCTGTGAGACCTTTCGAAAA CGCTTGGTGCTGTCGGTGAAGCCCGCGCCCAGGGGCAGCTTCGCACGGT CAGCAATGCTCAGACAGCTGACGAGGAGAGGACAGAAAGCAAAGGCACC 5 gtcgacggtaccgcgggatccatcgccaccATGGTGAGCAAGGGCGAGGAGCTGTT CACCGGGTGGTGCCCATCCTGGTCGAGCTGGACGGCGACGTAAACGGCC ACAAGTTCAGCGTGTCCGGCGAGGGCGAGGGCGATGCCACCTACGGCAA GCTGACCCTGAAGTTCATCTGCACCACCGGCAAGCTGCCCGTGCCCTGGC CCACCTCGTGACCACCTGACCTACGGCGTGCAGTGCTTCAGCCGCTAC 10 CCCGACCACATGAAGCACGACTTCTTCAAGTCCGCCATGCCCGAAGG CTACGTCCAGGAGCGCACCATCTTCTTCAAGGACGACGGCAACTACAAGA CCCGCGCGAGGTGAAGTTCGAGGGCGACACCCTGGTGAACCGCATCGAG CTGAAGGCATCGACTTCAAGGAGGACGCAACATCCTGGGGCACAAGC TGGAGTACAACTACAACAGCCACAACGTCTATATCATGGCCGACAAGCAG 15 AAGAACGCCATCAAGGTGAACTTCAAGATCCGCCACAACATCGAGGACG GCAGCGTGCAGCTCGCCGACCACTACCAGCAGAACACCCCCATCGGCGAC GGCCCGTGCTGCCGACACCACTACCTGAGCACCCAGTCCGCCCT GAGCAAAGACCCCAACGAGAAGCGCGATCACATGGTCCTGCTGGAGTTCG TGACCGCCGCGGGATCACTCTCGGCATGGACGAGCTGTACAAGTAA

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SEQ. ID. NO. 29: Human long form/mouse species chimeric MCH1R-linker-EGFP

Nucleic acid sequence start codon and start and stop codons for mouse MCH1R and EGFP, respectively, are highlighted and a 12 amino acid linker sequence is denoted in

25 lower case:

CATGATCCACCAGCTCATGGGCAATGGGGTGTGGCACTTTGGGGAGACCA TGTGCACCCTCATCACGGCCATGGATGCCAATAGTCAGTTCACCAGCACC TACATCCTGACCGCCATGGCCATTGACCGCTACCTGGCCACTGTCCACCCC ATCTCTTCCACGAAGTTCCGGAAGCCCTCCATGGCCACCCTGGTGATCTGC CTCCTGTGGGCTCTCTCGTTCATTAGCATCACTCCTGTGTGGCTCTATGCC AGGCTTATCCCCTTCCCAGGGGGTGCTGTGGGCTGTGGCATCCGCCTACCA AACCCAGATACTGATCTTTACTGGTTCACTCTGTATCAGTTTTTCCTGGCCT TCGCCCTTCCGTTTGTGGTCATCACTGCTGCGTACGTGAAAATACTACAGC GCATGACGTCTTCGGTGGCCCCAGCCTCTCAACGCAGCATCCGGCTTCGG ACAAAGAGGGTGACCCGCACAGCCATTGCCATCTGTCTGGTCTTCTTTGTG 10 TGCTGGGCGCCCTACTACGTGCTGCAGCTGACCCAGTTGTCCATCAGCCGC CCGACCCTCACATTCGTCTACCTGTACAATGCGGCCATCAGCTTGGGCTAT GCCAACAGCTGCCTCAATCCCTTTGTGTACATAGTACTCTGTGAGACCTTT CGAAAACGCTTGGTGCTGTCGGTGAAGCCCGCGGCCCAGGGGCAGCTTCG CACGGTCAGCAATGCTCAGACAGCTGACGAGGAGAGGACAGAAAGCAAA 15 $GGCACC gtcgacggtaccgcgggacccgggatccatcgccacc A {\color{blue}TGAGCAAGGGCGAGGA} \\$ GCTGTTCACCGGGGTGGTGCCCATCCTGGTCGAGCTGGACGGCGACGTAA ACGGCCACAAGTTCAGCGTGTCCGGCGAGGGCGAGGGCGATGCCACCTAC GGCAAGCTGACCCTGAAGTTCATCTGCACCACCGGCAAGCTGCCCGTGCC CTGGCCCACCCTGACCACCCTGACCTACGGCGTGCAGTGCTTCAGCC 20 GCTACCCGACCACATGAAGCAGCACGACTTCTTCAAGTCCGCCATGCCC GAAGGCTACGTCCAGGAGCGCACCATCTTCTTCAAGGACGACGGCAACTA CAAGACCCGCGCGAGGTGAAGTTCGAGGGCGACACCCTGGTGAACCGC ATCGAGCTGAAGGCATCGACTTCAAGGAGGACGGCAACATCCTGGGGC ACAAGCTGGAGTACAACTACAACAGCCACAACGTCTATATCATGGCCGAC 25 AAGCAGAAGAACGGCATCAAGGTGAACTTCAAGATCCGCCACAACATCG AGGACGGCAGCGTGCAGCTCGCCGACCACTACCAGCAGAACACCCCCATC GGCGACGGCCCCGTGCTGCCCGACAACCACTACCTGAGCACCCAGTC CGCCCTGAGCAAAGACCCCAACGAGAAGCGCGATCACATGGTCCTGCTGG AGTTCGTGACCGCCGCGGGATCACTCTCGGCATGGACGAGCTGTACAAG 30 TAA

Example 2: Generation of Chimeric and Fusion Proteins

DNA vectors encoding fusion proteins between a MCH-R receptor

(MCH1R) and several different superbright variants of Green Fluorescent Protein

(GFP) were generated. GFP variants were fused either via a 12 amino acid linker: TCGACGGTACCGCGGGCCCGGGATCCATCGCCACC (SEQ. ID. NO. 30), amino acid sequence: VDGTAGPGSIAT (SEQ. ID. NO. 31) (linker fusions) or directly to the C-terminus of MCH1R (direct fusions).

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Mouse MCH1R-linker-GFP Variant Fusion Constructs

Initially, mouse MCH1R was fused in frame via the linker to Enhanced Green Fluorescent Protein (EGFP). MCH1R was PCR-amplified (95°C for 5 minutes; 95°C for 30 seconds, 60°C for 45 seconds, 68°C for 3.5 minutes, for 15 cycles; 68°C for 7 minutes) from a full-length mouse MCH1R genomic DNA lambda clone utilizing a high fidelity polymerase mix (Expand High Fidelity PCR System from Boehringer Mannheim) and PCR primers [MCH1R (Eco RI) 5': GCGAATTCACCATGGATCTGCAAGCCTCG (SEQ. ID. NO. 32), MCH1R (Sal I) 3': GCGTCGACGGTGCCTTTGCTTTCTGTCC (SEQ. ID. NO. 33)] that generated Eco RI and Sal I enzymatic restriction sites at the N- and C-terminus, respectively. The MCH1R N-terminal PCR primer was also designed to introduce a Kozak consensus sequence for translation which contained an Nco I site (5'-ACCATGG-3'), and the MCH1R C-terminal PCR primer was also designed to eliminate the endogenous stop codon present in the mouse MCH1R gene. The resulting PCR product was phenol/chloroform extracted, restriction digested with Eco RI and Sal I, gel purified, and subcloned in frame into the multicloning site of Clontech's pEGFP-N3 vector between Eco RI and Sal I sites. Several resulting clones for this construct were sequenced to identify a clone with an entirely correct nucleotide sequence. This clone was named mMCH1R-l-EGFP for mouse MCH1R-linker-EGFP.

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An approximately 760 bp Sal I to Not I fragment of mMCH1R-I-EGFP was excised, gel purified, and subcloned into the multicloning site of pBluescript (SK+) (Stratagene) between Sal1 and Not I sites. An approximately 710 bp Nco I to Bsr G1 fragment of EGFP was excised from the resulting pBluescript-EGFP vector and replaced with the corresponding Nco I to Bsr G1 fragment of either Emerald, Topaz, or W1B (other superbright GFP variants), which were excised from vectors pRSET-Emerald, pRSET-Topaz, and pRSET-W1B, respectively. pRSET-Emerald, pRSET-Topaz, and pRSET-W1B were obtained from Aurora Biosciences Co. Sal I to Not I fragments containing either Emerald, Topaz, or W1B were excised from the resulting pBluescript-Emerald, pBluescript-Topaz, and pBluescript-W1B vectors,

respectively. Appropriate fragments were gel purified and subcloned into mMCH1R-35

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l-EGFP digested with Sal I and Not I, replacing the Sal I to Not I EGFP fragment with the corresponding Sal I to Not I fragment from either Emerald, Topaz, or W1B. Several clones for each construct were sequenced to confirm the presence of the appropriate GFP variant. The resulting vectors were named mMCH1R-l-Emerald, mMCH1R-l-Topaz, and mMCH1R-l-W1B for mouse MCH1R-linker-Emerald, mouse MCH1R-linker-Topaz, and mouse MCH1R-linker-W1B, respectively.

Mouse MCH1R/GFP Variant Direct Fusion Constructs

A two step PCR strategy was employed to generate the direct fusion

constructs. First, mouse MCH1R, EGFP, and Emerald were PCR-amplified from a
full-length mouse MCH1R genomic DNA lambda clone, Clontech's pEGFP-N3

vector, and Aurora's pRSET-Emerald vector, respectively. Mouse MCH1R was

PCR-amplified according to the previously mentioned conditions utilizing the same

N-terminal PCR primer [MCH1R (Eco RI) 5': GCGAATTCACCATGGATCTGCA

AGCCTCG (SEQ. ID. NO. 32)], but in this case a different C-terminal PCR primer

was employed. The C-terminal PCR primer [MCH1R (EGFP/Emerald) 3':

CCTTGCTCACCATGGTGCCTTTGCTTTCTGTCC (SEQ. ID. NO. 34)] eliminated

the endogenous stop codon of mouse MCH1R as before and introduced a region of
nucleotide sequence complementary to the nucleotide sequence of the N-terminus of

EGFP.

EGFP and Emerald were PCR-amplified (95°C for 5 minutes; 95°C for 30 seconds, 60°C for 45 seconds, 68°C for 1.5 minutes, for 15 cycles; 68°C for 7 minutes) separately with a high fidelity polymerase mix (Advantage HF-2 from Clontech) from their respective templates utilizing a common N-terminal PCR primer [EGFP/Emerald (MCH1R) 5': CAGAAAGCAAAGGCACCATGGTGAGCAA GGGCGAGGAGC (SEQ. ID. NO. 35)] that generated a region of nucleotide sequence complementary to the C-terminus of mouse MCH1R and C-terminal PCR primers [EGFP 3': GGCGGATCCTCTAGAGTCGCGGCC (SEQ. ID. NO. 36), or Emerald (EGFP) 3': GCTCTAGAGTCGCGGCCGCTTACTTGTACAGCTCGTCC (SEQ. ID. NO. 37)] that generated a Not I site at the C-terminus. The resulting PCR products were electrophoresed on an agarose gel and the appropriate fragments were gel purified.

In a second PCR step, PCR reactions were set up between the previously generated mouse MCH1R and EGFP, or mouse MCH1R and Emerald PCR products. Following an initial 5 minute denaturation step at 95°C, two rounds of

thermocycling (95°C for 30 seconds, 60°C for 45 seconds, 68°C for 4 minutes) were performed in the absence of PCR primers. This allowed the mouse MCH1R and GFP variants to anneal at their complementary regions and to be filled in by the high fidelity polymerase mix (Expand High Fidelity PCR System from Boehringer Mannheim), yielding double stranded template DNA.

Subsequently, the common N-terminal mouse MCH1R [MCH1R (Eco RI) 5': GCGAATTCACCATGGATCTGCAAGCCTCG (SEQ. ID. NO. 32)] and appropriate C-terminal PCR primers [EGFP 3': GGCGGATCCTCTAGAGTC GCGGCC (SEQ. ID. NO. 36) or Emerald (EGFP) 3': GCTCTAGAGTCGCGG CCGCTTACTTGTACAGCTCGTCC (SEQ. ID. NO. 37)] were added to the reactions and thermocycling was continued for an additional fifteen cycles followed by a final extension at 68°C for 7 minutes. The resulting PCR products were phenol/chloroform extracted, restriction digested with Eco RI and Not I, electrophoresed on an agarose gel, and appropriate fragments were gel purified.

These Eco RI to Not I fragments represent direct fusions between either mouse MCH1R and EGFP, or mouse MCH1R and Emerald. Clontech's pEGFP-N3 vector was restriction digested with Eco RI and Not I liberating an approximately 780 bp Eco RI to Not I EGFP fragment. This restriction digest was electrophoresed on an agarose gel and the approximately 3.9 Kb pEGFP-N3 vector backbone was gel purified. Eco RI to Not I mouse MCH1R/EGFP or mouse MCH1R/Emerald direct fusion fragments were subcloned into the pEGFP-N3 vector backbone between Eco RI and Not I sites. Several resulting clones for each of these two constructs were sequenced to identify clones with correct nucleotide sequence; however, no clones with entirely correct nucleotide sequences were identified.

Fortunately, several clones for each of the two constructs only had nucleotide mismatches in the intron region of mouse MCH1R, and therefore, were not expected to effect the functionality of the resulting fusion proteins. These clones were named mMCH1R/EGFP and mMCH1R/Emerald for mouse MCH1R/EGFP direct fusion and mouse MCH1R/Emerald direct fusion, respectively.

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Human Short and Long Form/Mouse Species Chimeric MCH1R-linker-GFP Variant Fusion Constructs

The initial mouse MCH1R-linker-GFP variant fusion constructs were modified to generate both human short form and human long form/mouse species

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chimeric MCH1R-linker-GFP variant fusion constructs. An approximately 1.7 kb Hind III to Bsp EI fragment of the mouse MCH1R gene containing exon 1, the intron, and 127 amino acids of exon 2 was excised from the various mouse MCH1R-linker-GFP variant fusion constructs and replaced by either an approximately 470 bp Hind III to Bsp EI fragment from the wild-type human MCH1R short form or an approximately 670 bp Hind III to Bsp EI fragment from the wild-type human MCH1R long form.

Several clones for each construct were sequenced to confirm the presence of the N-terminal region of either the human MCH1R short or long forms. These clones were named hshort/mMCH1R-l-GFP variant or hlong/mMCH1R-l-GFP variant for human short form/mouse species chimeric MCH1R-linker-GFP variant and human long form/mouse species chimeric MCH1R-linker-GFP variant, respectively.

Both HEK293 Aequorin (National Institutes of Health) and CHO mammalian cell lines were transiently transfected with the various MCH1R/GFP variant fusion constructs, as well as the appropriate control constructs. Transfection was performed using Lipofectamine 2000 (Gibco BRL) per the manufacturer recommended protocol. Approximately 48 hours after transfection cells were harvested, stimulated with various concentrations of human MCH, and assayed for either aequorin bioluminescence (HEK293 Aequorin cells) or cAMP production (CHO cells). Aequorin bioluminescence is a representative measure of intracellular Ca²⁺ mobilization. cAMP production was measured with the Adenylyl Cyclase

25 Activation FlashPlate Assay (NEN Life Science Products, Inc.).

Following transient transfection of the mMCH1R-linker-EGFP construct (MCH-R-l-EGFP) into HEK293 Aequorin cells, the resulting fusion protein exhibited functional activity comparable to that of the wild-type human MCH1R short form (MCH-R wt). By this functional assay, the EC50 value for mMCH1R-l-EGFP was nearly identical to that of the wild-type human short form receptor (Figure 1).

Following transient transfections of the mMCH1R-l-EGFP and mMCH1R/EGFP fusion constructs into CHO cells, the resulting fusion proteins exhibited functional activity comparable to that of the wild-type human MCH1R short form. By this functional assay, the EC50 values for mMCH1R-l-EGFP and mMCH1R/EGFP were comparable to that of the wild-type human receptor (Table 1).

Transient transfections with the corresponding Emerald constructs yielded similar results (data not shown).

Table 1

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Receptor	EC50 (nM)	
Wild-type Human MCH1R Short Form	2.166	
Mouse MCH1R/EGFP	0.819	•
Mouse MCH1R-l-EGFP	3.199	

Following transient transfections of the human short form/mouse species chimeric MCH1R-l-EGFP (HuShort/mMCH1R-l-EGFP) and human long form/mouse species chimeric MCH1R-l-EGFP (HuLong/mMCH1R-l-EGFP) constructs into HEK293 cells, the resulting fusion proteins exhibited functional activity comparable to that of the wild-type human MHC1R short and long forms, respectively. By this functional assay, the EC50 value for each fusion proteins was nearly identical to that of the corresponding wild-type human receptor (Table 2).

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Table 2

Receptor	EC ₅₀ (nM)
Wild-type Human MCH1R Short Form	22.27
HuShort/mMCH1R-l-EGFP	19.54
Wild-type Human MCH1R Long Form	196.7
HuLong/mMCH1R-l-EGFP Form	217.5

Following transient transfections of the human short form/mouse species chimeric MCH1R-l-EGFP (HuShort/mMCH1R-l-EGFP) and human long form/mouse species chimeric MCH1R-l-EGFP (HuLong/mMCH1R-l-EGFP) constructs into CHO cells, the resulting fusion proteins exhibited functional activity comparable to or less than that of the wild-type human MHC1R short and long forms, respectively (Table 3). By this functional assay, the EC50 value for the human short form/mouse species chimeric MCH1R-l-EGFP fusion protein was comparable to that of the corresponding wild-type human receptor, whereas, the human long form/mouse

species chimeric MCH1R-1-EGFP fusion protein had an EC50 value approximately 7.5-fold higher than that of its corresponding wild-type control.

Table 3

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Receptor	EC50 (nM)
Wild-type Human MCH1R Short Form	1.029
Wild-type Human MCH1R Long Form	1.515
HuShort/mMCH1R-l-EFGP	1.565
HuLong/mMCH1R-I-EGFP	11.580

Transient expression of all the MCH1R/GFP variant fusion proteins that underwent functional evaluation resulted in fluorescence primarily associated with the plasma membrane in both HEK293 and CHO cells (data not shown). This pattern of fluorescence is consistent with a predominant membrane associated localization.

Example 4: Generation of Stable Cell Lines

Wild-type CHO cells were transfected using SuperFect (Qiagen) and either mouse MCH-1R-EGFP or human short/mouse species chimeric MCH-1R-EGFP. Forty-eight hours after transfection, transfected cells were subjected to positive selection for approximately ten days in media containing G418. Following selection, MCH-1R-EGFP expressing CHO cells were bulk sorted by Fluorescence Assisted Cell Sorting (FACS) for one or two rounds on the basis of fluorescence intensity to increase the population of cells expressing EGFP. Following bulk sorts, individual clones of varying fluorescence intensities were isolated by FACS and expanded.

Fluorometric Microvolume Assay Technology (FMAT) was initially employed to screen a large number of stable clones by whole cell binding with a fluorescently labeled MCH derivative (SymJz-MCH, PE Biosystems) to identify those clones with good specific binding windows. Several clones exhibiting specific binding windows greater than 3-fold were further evaluated for MCH binding with the SPA-based Binding Assay. Cells from individual clones were dissociated in enzyme free dissociation media and cell membranes were prepared and subsequently tested for

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their ability to bind [¹²⁵I]Phe¹³Tyr¹⁹-MCH in the presence of human MCH. CHO cell lines expressing either mouse MCH-1R-EGFP or human short/mouse species chimeric MCH-1R-EGFP (Figure 4) displayed IC50 values with MCH that were indistinguishable from the corresponding IC50 values obtained with a CHO cell line expressing the wild-type human short isoform of MCH-1R.

The functional activity of these clones was evaluated with the cAMP Flashplate Assay (Figures 2 and 3). CHO cell lines expressing either mouse MCH-1R-EGFP (Figure 2) or human short/mouse species chimeric MCH-1R-EGFP (Figure 3) displayed EC50 values with human MCH that were indistinguishable from the EC50 value obtained with a CHO cell line expressing the wild-type human short isoform of MCH-1R.

The subcellular localization of the MCH-1R-EGFP fusion proteins were determined by confocal microscopy utilizing EGFP fluorescence as a marker for MCH-1R expression. CHO cell lines stably expressing either mouse MCH-1R-EGFP or human short/mouse species chimeric MCH-1R-EGFP displayed EGFP fluorescence primarily associated with the plasma membrane, demonstrating that these MCH-1R-EGFP fusion proteins are primarily associated with the plasma membrane.

Other embodiments are within the following claims. While several embodiments have been shown and described, various modifications may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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 A fusi 	on protein	comprising:
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- a) a melanin concentrating hormone receptor polypeptide region comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ. ID. NO. 1, SEQ. ID. NO. 2, SEQ. SEQ. ID. NO. 3, SEQ. ID. NO. 4, and SEQ. ID. NO. 5; and
 - b) a fluorescent polypeptide region joined directly, or though a linker, to the carboxy side of said melanin concentrating hormone receptor polypeptide region.

2. The protein of claim 1, wherein said fluorescent polypeptide region consists of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ. ID. NO. 6, SEQ. ID. NO. 7, SEQ. ID. NO. 8, SEQ. ID. NO. 9, and SEQ. ID. NO. 10.

- 15 3. The protein of claim 2, wherein said melanin concentrating hormone polypeptide region consists of a sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ. ID. NO. 1, SEQ. ID. NO. 2, SEQ. ID. NO. 3, SEQ. ID. NO. 4, and SEQ. ID. NO. 5.
- 20 4. The protein of claim 3, wherein said protein consists essentially of said melanin concentrating hormone receptor polypeptide region and said fluorescent polypeptide region.
- 5. The protein of claim 4, wherein said protein consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID. NO. 11 or SEQ. ID. NO. 12.
 - 6. The protein of claim 1, wherein said melanin concentrating hormone polypeptide region is a chimeric polypeptide comprising (a) an MCH binding region from a first species and (b) a transmembrane and intracellular domain region from a second species joined directly, or though a linker, to the carboxy side of said MCH binding region.
 - 7. The protein of claim 6, wherein said fluorescent polypeptide region consists of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ. ID. NO. 6, SEQ. ID. NO. 7, SEQ. ID. NO. 8, SEQ. ID. NO. 9, and SEQ. ID. NO. 10.

8. The protein of claim 7, wherein said protein consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID. NO. 13 or SEQ. ID. NO. 14.

- 5 9. A chimeric melanin concentrating hormone protein comprising:
 - a) a melanin concentrating hormone binding region characteristic of a human melanin concentrating hormone receptor;
 - b) a transmembrane domain characteristic of a non-human melanin concentrating hormone receptor; and
- 10 c) an intracellular domain characteristic of a non-human melanin concentrating hormone receptor.
- The protein of claim 9, wherein said protein comprises a melanin concentrating hormone receptor polypeptide having a sequence similarity of
 at least 75% with either SEQ. ID. NO. 4 or SEQ. ID. NO. 5.
 - 11. The protein of claim 10, wherein said protein comprises the sequence of SEQ. ID. NO. 4 or SEQ. ID. NO. 5.
- 20 12. The protein of claim 11, wherein said protein consists of the sequence of SEQ. ID. NO. 4 or SEQ. ID. NO. 5.
 - 13. A nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding for the protein of claim 1.
 - 14. The nucleic acid of claim 13, wherein said nucleotide sequence is a contiguous sequence.
- The nucleic acid of claim 13, wherein said nucleotide sequence
 is selected from the group consisting of SEQ. ID. NO. 26, SEQ. ID. NO. 27, SEQ. ID.
 NO. 28 and SEQ. ID. NO. 29.
 - 16. A nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding for the protein of claim 9.

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17. The nucleic acid of claim 16, wherein said nucleotide sequence is a contiguous sequence.

18. The nucleic acid of claim 16, wherein said nucleotide sequence 5 is selected from the group consisting of SEQ. ID. NO. 19 and SEQ. ID. NO. 20.

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- 19. An expression vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 13.
- 20. An expression vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 16.
- 21. A recombinant cell comprising the nucleic acid of claim 13.
- 22. The recombinant cell of claim 21, wherein said nucleic acid is present in an expression vector.
- 23. The recombinant cell of claim 21, wherein said nucleic acid is present in the genome of said cell.
 - 24. A recombinant cell comprising the nucleic acid of claim 16.
- 25. The recombinant cell of claim 24, wherein said nucleic acid is present in an expression vector.
- 26. The recombinant cell of claim 24, wherein said nucleic acid is present in the genome of said cell.
 - 27. A non-human transgenic animal comprising the nucleic acid of claim 13.
- 30 28. A non-human transgenic animal comprising the nucleic acid of claim 16.
 - 29. A method for assaying for melanin concentrating hormone receptor active compounds comprising the steps of:

a) contacting the cell of claim 21 with a test preparation comprising one or more test compounds; and

- b) measuring the effect of said test preparation on one or more melanin concentrating hormone receptor activities.
- 30. A method for assaying for melanin concentrating hormone receptor active compounds comprising the steps of:

- a) contacting the cell of claim 24 with a test preparation comprising one or more test compounds; and
- b) measuring the effect of said test preparation on one or more melanin concentrating hormone receptor activities.

mMCH1R-l-EGFP Aequorin Assay

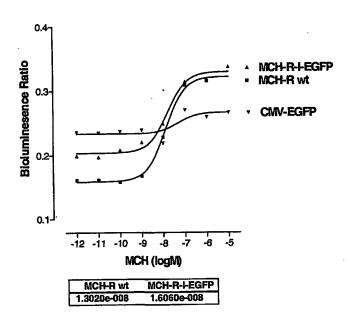


Fig. 1

PCT/US01/08071

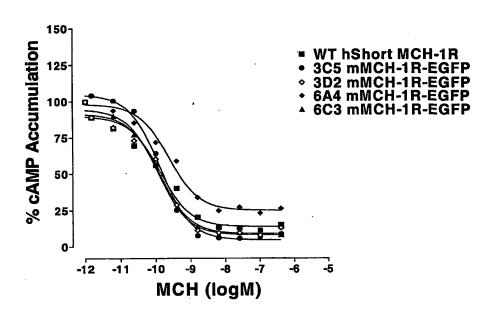


Fig. 2

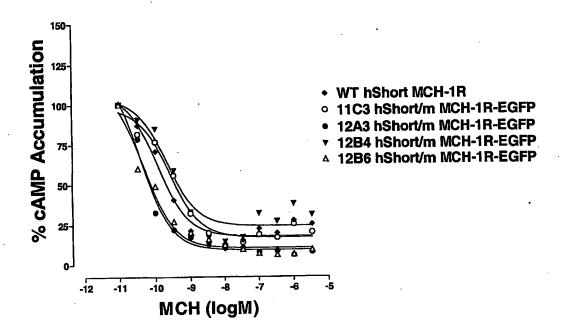


Fig. 3

SEQUENCE LISTING

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                            200
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Lys Asp Pro Asn Glu Lys Arg Asp His Met Val Leu Leu Glu Phe Val
                                           220
                        215
   210
Thr Ala Ala Gly Ile Thr His Gly Met Asp Glu Leu Tyr Lys
                    230
<210> 7
<211> 239
 <212> PRT
<213> Artificial Sequence
<220>
<223> GFP derivative
Met Val Ser Lys Gly Glu Glu Leu Phe Thr Gly Val Val Pro Ile Leu
                                    10
Val Glu Leu Asp Gly Asp Val Asn Gly His Lys Phe Ser Val Ser Gly
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Glu Gly Glu Gly Asp Ala Thr Tyr Gly Lys Leu Thr Leu Lys Phe Ile Cys Thr Thr Gly Lys Leu Pro Val Pro Trp Pro Thr Leu Val Thr Thr Leu Thr Tyr Gly Val Gln Cys Phe Ser Arg Tyr Pro Asp His Met Lys
70 75 80 Gln His Asp Phe Phe Lys Ser Ala Met Pro Glu Gly Tyr Val Gln Glu Arg Thr Ile Phe Phe Lys Asp Asp Gly Asn Tyr Lys Thr Arg Ala Glu Val Lys Phe Glu Gly Asp Thr Leu Val Asn Arg Ile Glu Leu Lys Gly Ile Asp Phe Lys Glu Asp Gly Asn Ile Leu Gly His Lys Leu Glu Tyr Asn Tyr Asn Ser His Asn Val Tyr Ile Met Ala Asp Lys Gln Lys Asn

```
Gly Ile Lys Val Asn Phe Lys Ile Arg His Asn Ile Glu Asp Gly Ser
                                    170
                                                         175
                165
Val Gln Leu Ala Asp His Tyr Gln Gln Asn Thr Pro Ile Gly Asp Gly
                                185
                                                     190
            180
Pro Val Leu Leu Pro Asp Asn His Tyr Leu Ser Thr Gln Ser Ala Leu
                           200
                                                205
Ser Lys Asp Pro Asn Glu Lys Arg Asp His Met Val Leu Leu Glu Phe
                        215
                                             220
Val Thr Ala Ala Gly Ile Thr Leu Gly Met Asp Glu Leu Tyr Lys
                    230.
                                        235
<210> 8
<211> 239
<212> PRT
<213> Artificial Sequence
<220>
<223> GFP derivative
<400> 8
Met Val Ser Lys Gly Glu Glu Leu Phe Thr Gly Val Val Pro Ile Leu
Val Glu Leu Asp Gly Asp Val Asn Gly His Lys Phe Ser Val Ser Gly
            20
                                25
Glu Gly Glu Gly Asp Ala Thr Tyr Gly Lys Leu Thr Leu Lys Phe Ile 35 40 45
Cys Thr Thr Gly Lys Leu Pro Val Pro Trp Pro Thr Leu Val Thr Thr
                       55
   50
                                           60
Leu Thr Tyr Gly Val Gln Cys Phe Ala Arg Tyr Pro Asp His Met Lys 65 70 75 80
Gln His Asp Phe Phe Lys Ser Ala Met Pro Glu Gly Tyr Val Gln Glu
               85
                                    90
Arg Thr Ile Phe Phe Lys Asp Asp Gly Asn Tyr Lys Thr Arg Ala Glu
            100
                                105
                                                     110
Val Lys Phe Glu Gly Asp Thr Leu Val Asn Arg Ile Glu Leu Lys Gly
       115
                            120
                                                125
Ile Asp Phe Lys Glu Asp Gly Asn Ile Leu Gly His Lys Leu Glu Tyr
                       135
                                            140
 130
Asn Tyr Asn Ser His Lys Val Tyr Ile Thr Ala Asp Lys Gln Lys Asn
                    150
                                         155
Gly Ile Lys Val Asn Phe Lys Thr Arg His Asn Ile Glu Asp Gly Ser
               165
                                    170
                                                         175
Val Gln Leu Ala Asp His Tyr Gln Gln Asn Thr Pro Ile Gly Asp Gly 180 185 190
           180
Pro Val Leu Leu Pro Asp Asn His Tyr Leu Ser Thr Gln Ser Ala Leu
       195
                           200
                                                 205
Ser Lys Asp Pro Asn Glu Lys Arg Asp His Met Val Leu Leu Glu Phe
                       215
                                             220
Val Thr Ala Ala Gly Ile Thr Leu Gly Met Asp Glu Leu Tyr Lys
225 230 235
225
                    230
<210> 9
<211> 239
<212> PRT
<213> Artificial Sequence
<220>
<223> GFP derivative
Met Val Ser Lys Gly Glu Glu Leu Phe Thr Gly Val Val Pro Ile Leu
                                     10
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Val Glu Leu Asp Gly Asp Val Asn Gly His Lys Phe Ser Val Ser Gly
                                25
Glu Gly Glu Gly Asp Ala Thr Tyr Gly Lys Leu Thr Leu Lys Phe Ile
                            40
Cys Thr Thr Gly Lys Leu Pro Val Pro Trp Pro Thr Leu Val Thr Thr
                                            60
                        55
Phe Gly Tyr Gly Val Gln Cys Phe Ala Arg Tyr Pro Asp His Met Arg 65 70 75 80
Gln His Asp Phe Phe Lys Ser Ala Met Pro Glu Gly Tyr Val Gln Glu
               85
                                    90
Arg Thr Ile Phe Phe Lys Asp Asp Gly Asn Tyr Lys Thr Arg Ala Glu
                                                   110
            100
                                105
Val Lys Phe Glu Gly Asp Thr Leu Val Asn Arg Ile Glu Leu Lys Gly
                                                125
                            120
       115
Ile Asp Phe Lys Glu Asp Gly Asn Ile Leu Gly His Lys Leu Glu Tyr
                                            140
                        135
Asn Tyr Asn Ser His Asn Val Tyr Ile Met Ala Asp Lys Gln Lys Asn
                                        155
                    150
Gly Ile Lys Val Asn Phe Lys Ile Arg His Asn Ile Glu Asp Gly Ser
                                                        175
                                    170
                165
Val Gln Leu Ala Asp His Tyr Gln Gln Asn Thr Pro Ile Gly Asp Gly
                                                    190
                                185
           180
Pro Val Leu Leu Pro Asp Asn His Tyr Leu Ser Tyr Gln Ser Ala Leu
                                                205
                           200
      195
Ser Lys Asp Pro Asn Glu Lys Arg Asp His Met Val Leu Leu Glu Phe
                                         220
                        215
   210
Val Thr Ala Ala Gly Ile Thr Leu Gly Met Asp Glu Leu Tyr Lys
                    230
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<210> 10 <211> 239

<212> PRT

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220> <223> GFP derivative

<400> 10 Met Val Ser Lys Gly Glu Glu Leu Phe Thr Gly Val Val Pro Ile Leu Val Glu Leu Asp Gly Asp Val Asn Gly His Arg Phe Ser Val Ser Gly 20 Glu Gly Glu Gly Asp Ala Thr Tyr Gly Lys Leu Thr Leu Lys Phe Ile 35 40 45 Cys Thr Thr Gly Lys Leu Pro Val Pro Trp Pro Thr Leu Val Thr Thr 60 55 Leu Thr Trp Gly Val Gln Cys Phe Ser Arg Tyr Pro Asp His Met Lys 70 75 80 70 Gln His Asp Phe Phe Lys Ser Ala Met Pro Glu Gly Tyr Val Gln Glu 90 Arg Thr Ile Phe Phe Lys Asp Asp Gly Asn Tyr Lys Thr Arg Ala Glu 105 100 Val Lys Phe Glu Gly Asp Thr Leu Val Asn Arg Ile Glu Leu Lys Gly 125 120 115 Ile Asp Phe Lys Glu Asp Gly Asn Ile Leu Gly His Lys Leu Glu Tyr 140 135 130 Asn Tyr Ile Ser His Asn Val Tyr Ile Thr Ala Asp Lys Gln Lys Asn 160 150 155 Gly Ile Lys Ala His Phe Lys Ile Arg His Asn Ile Glu Asp Gly Ser 170 165 Val Gln Leu Ala Asp His Tyr Gln Gln Asn Thr Pro Ile Gly Asp Gly 185

```
Pro Val Leu Pro Asp Asn His Tyr Leu Ser Thr Gln Ser Ala Leu
       195
                            200
                                                205
Ser Lys Asp Pro Asn Glu Lys Arg Asp His Met Val Leu Leu Glu Phe
                        215
  210
                                            220
Val Thr Ala Ala Gly Ile Thr Leu Gly Met Asp Glu Leu Tyr Lys
                    230
<210> 11
<211> 604
<212> PRT
<213> Artificial Sequence
<223> Mouse MCH1R-linker-EGFP
<400> 11
Met Asp Leu Gln Ala Ser Leu Leu Ser Thr Gly Pro Asn Ala Ser Asn
                                    10
Ile Ser Asp Gly Gln Asp Asn Phe Thr Leu Ala Gly Pro Pro Pro Arg
                                25
Thr Arg Ser Val Ser Tyr Ile Asn Ile Ile Met Pro Ser Val Phe Gly
35 40 45
        35
                                               45
                           40
Thr Ile Cys Leu Leu Gly Ile Val Gly Asn Ser Thr Val Ile Phe Ala 50 55 60
Val Val Lys Lys Ser Lys Leu His Trp Cys Ser Asn Val Pro Asp Ile
65 70 75 80
Phe Ile Ile Asn Leu Ser Val Val Asp Leu Leu Phe Leu Leu Gly Met
                85
                                    90
                                                         95
Pro Phe Met Ile His Gln Leu Met Gly Asn Gly Val Trp His Phe Gly
                                105
            100
                                                    110
Glu Thr Met Cys Thr Leu Ile Thr Ala Met Asp Ala Asn Ser Gln Phe
      115
                           120
                                                125
Thr Ser Thr Tyr Ile Leu Thr Ala Met Ala Ile Asp Arg Tyr Leu Ala
                        135
                                            140
Thr Val His Pro Ile Ser Ser Thr Lys Phe Arg Lys Pro Ser Met Ala
                   150
                                        155
Thr Leu Val Ile Cys Leu Leu Trp Ala Leu Ser Phe Ile Ser Ile Thr
                165
                                    170
Pro Val Trp Leu Tyr Ala Arg Leu Ile Pro Phe Pro Gly Gly Ala Val
                                185
                                                    190
            180
Gly Cys Gly Ile Arg Leu Pro Asn Pro Asp Thr Asp Leu Tyr Trp Phe
        195
                           200
Thr Leu Tyr Gln Phe Phe Leu Ala Phe Ala Leu Pro Phe Val Val Ile
                        215
    210
                                            220
Thr Ala Ala Tyr Val Lys Ile Leu Gln Arg Met Thr Ser Ser Val Ala
                   230
                                        235
Pro Ala Ser Gln Arg Ser Ile Arg Leu Arg Thr Lys Arg Val Thr Arg
                245
                                    250
                                                         255
Thr Ala Ile Ala Ile Cys Leu Val Phe Phe Val Cys Trp Ala Pro Tyr
                                265
            260
Tyr Val Leu Gln Leu Thr Gln Leu Ser Ile Ser Arg Pro Thr Leu Thr
        275
                            280
                                                285
Phe Val Tyr Leu Tyr Asn Ala Ala Ile Ser Leu Gly Tyr Ala Asn Ser
                        295
    290
                                           300
Cys Leu Asn Pro Phe Val Tyr Ile Val Leu Cys Glu Thr Phe Arg Lys
                    310
                                        315
Arg Leu Val Leu Ser Val Lys Pro Ala Ala Gln Gly Gln Leu Arg Thr
                325
                                    330
Val Ser Asn Ala Gln Thr Ala Asp Glu Glu Arg Thr Glu Ser Lys Gly
                                345
                                                     350
Thr Val Asp Gly Thr Ala Gly Pro Gly Ser Ile Ala Thr Met Val Ser
                            360
```

```
Lys Gly Glu Glu Leu Phe Thr Gly Val Val Pro Ile Leu Val Glu Leu
                        375
                                            380
   370
Asp Gly Asp Val Asn Gly His Lys Phe Ser Val Ser Gly Glu Gly Glu
                  390
                                       395
Gly Asp Ala Thr Tyr Gly Lys Leu Thr Leu Lys Phe Ile Cys Thr Thr
                                   410
               405
Gly Lys Leu Pro Val Pro Trp Pro Thr Leu Val Thr Thr Leu Thr Tyr
                                                   430
                               425
           420
Gly Val Gln Cys Phe Ser Arg Tyr Pro Asp His Met Lys Gln His Asp
                           440
       435
Phe Phe Lys Ser Ala Met Pro Glu Gly Tyr Val Gln Glu Arg Thr Ile
                                           460
                        455
Phe Phe Lys Asp Asp Gly Asn Tyr Lys Thr Arg Ala Glu Val Lys Phe
                   470
                                       475
Glu Gly Asp Thr Leu Val Asn Arg Ile Glu Leu Lys Gly Ile Asp Phe
               485
                                   490
Lys Glu Asp Gly Asn Ile Leu Gly His Lys Leu Glu Tyr Asn Tyr Asn
           500
                               505
                                                    510
Ser His Asn Val Tyr Ile Met Ala Asp Lys Gln Lys Asn Gly Ile Lys
                            520
                                                525
       515
Val Asn Phe Lys Ile Arg His Asn Ile Glu Asp Gly Ser Val Gln Leu
                                            540
                       535
    530
Ala Asp His Tyr Gln Gln Asn Thr Pro Ile Gly Asp Gly Pro Val Leu
                                       555
                    550
Leu Pro Asp Asn His Tyr Leu Ser Thr Gln Ser Ala Leu Ser Lys Asp
                                   570
                565
Pro Asn Glu Lys Arg Asp His Met Val Leu Leu Glu Phe Val Thr Ala
                             585
           580
Ala Gly Ile Thr Leu Gly Met Asp Glu Leu Tyr Lys
        595
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<210> 12

<211> 592

<212> PRT

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Mouse MCH1R/EGFP

<400> 12 Met Asp Leu Gln Ala Ser Leu Leu Ser Thr Gly Pro Asn Ala Ser Asn Ile Ser Asp Gly Gln Asp Asn Phe Thr Leu Ala Gly Pro Pro Pro Arg Thr Arg Ser Val Ser Tyr Ile Asn Ile Ile Met Pro Ser Val Phe Gly Thr Ile Cys Leu Leu Gly Ile Val Gly Asn Ser Thr Val Ile Phe Ala Val Val Lys Lys Ser Lys Leu His Trp Cys Ser Asn Val Pro Asp Ile 70 75 80 Phe Ile Ile Asn Leu Ser Val Val Asp Leu Leu Phe Leu Leu Gly Met Pro Phe Met Ile His Gln Leu Met Gly Asn Gly Val Trp His Phe Gly 100 105 110 Glu Thr Met Cys Thr Leu Ile Thr Ala Met Asp Ala Asn Ser Gln Phe Thr Ser Thr Tyr Ile Leu Thr Ala Met Ala Ile Asp Arg Tyr Leu Ala Thr Val His Pro Ile Ser Ser Thr Lys Phe Arg Lys Pro Ser Met Ala Thr Leu Val Ile Cys Leu Leu Trp Ala Leu Ser Phe Ile Ser Ile Thr

```
Pro Val Trp Leu Tyr Ala Arg Leu Ile Pro Phe Pro Gly Gly Ala Val
                                 185
                                                     190
Gly Cys Gly Ile Arg Leu Pro Asn Pro Asp Thr Asp Leu Tyr Trp Phe
        195
                            200
                                                 205
Thr Leu Tyr Gln Phe Phe Leu Ala Phe Ala Leu Pro Phe Val Val Ile
   210
                        215
                                             220
Thr Ala Ala Tyr Val Lys Ile Leu Gln Arg Met Thr Ser Ser Val Ala
                    230
                                         235
Pro Ala Ser Gln Arg Ser Ile Arg Leu Arg Thr Lys Arg Val Thr Arg
245 250 255
               245
                                   250
Thr Ala Ile Ala Ile Cys Leu Val Phe Phe Val Cys Trp Ala Pro Tyr
                                265
Tyr Val Leu Gln Leu Thr Gln Leu Ser Ile Ser Arg Pro Thr Leu Thr
        275
                            280
                                                 285
Phe Val Tyr Leu Tyr Asn Ala Ala Ile Ser Leu Gly Tyr Ala Asn Ser
   290
                        295
                                             300
Cys Leu Asn Pro Phe Val Tyr Ile Val Leu Cys Glu Thr Phe Arg Lys
                                         315
                    310
Arg Leu Val Leu Ser Val Lys Pro Ala Ala Gln Gly Gln Leu Arg Thr
               325
                                    330
Val Ser Asn Ala Gln Thr Ala Asp Glu Glu Arg Thr Glu Ser Lys Gly
            340
                                345
Thr Met Val Ser Lys Gly Glu Glu Leu Phe Thr Gly Val Val Pro Ile
        355
                            360
                                                365
Leu Val Glu Leu Asp Gly Asp Val Asn Gly His Lys Phe Ser Val Ser 370 380
Gly Glu Gly Glu Gly Asp Ala Thr Tyr Gly Lys Leu Thr Leu Lys Phe 385 390 395 400
Ile Cys Thr Thr Gly Lys Leu Pro Val Pro Trp Pro Thr Leu Val Thr
                                    410
               405
Thr Leu Thr Tyr Gly Val Gln Cys Phe Ser Arg Tyr Pro Asp His Met
           420
                               425
                                                    430
Lys Gln His Asp Phe Phe Lys Ser Ala Met Pro Glu Gly Tyr Val Gln
       435
                            440
                                                445
Glu Arg Thr Ile Phe Phe Lys Asp Asp Gly Asn Tyr Lys Thr Arg Ala
                       455
                                            460
Glu Val Lys Phe Glu Gly Asp Thr Leu Val Asn Arg Ile Glu Leu Lys
                    470
Gly Ile Asp Phe Lys Glu Asp Gly Asn Ile Leu Gly His Lys Leu Glu
               485
                                    490
Tyr Asn Tyr Asn Ser His Asn Val Tyr Ile Met Ala Asp Lys Gln Lys 500 505 510
Asn Gly Ile Lys Val Asn Phe Lys Ile Arg His Asn Ile Glu Asp Gly 515 520 525
                            520
                                                 525
Ser Val Gln Leu Ala Asp His Tyr Gln Gln Asn Thr Pro Ile Gly Asp
    530
                       535
                                             540
Gly Pro Val Leu Leu Pro Asp Asn His Tyr Leu Ser Thr Gln Ser Ala
                                       555
                   550
Leu Ser Lys Asp Pro Asn Glu Lys Arg Asp His Met Val Leu Glu 565 570 575
Phe Val Thr Ala Ala Gly Ile Thr Leu Gly Met Asp Glu Leu Tyr Lys
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<210> 13

<211> 604 <212> PRT

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> MCH1R-linker-EGFP

<400> 13

Met Asp Leu Glu Ala Ser Leu Leu Pro Thr Gly Pro Asn Ala Ser Asn Thr Ser Asp Gly Pro Asp Asn Leu Thr Ser Ala Gly Ser Pro Pro Arg Thr Gly Ser Ile Ser Tyr Ile Asn Ile Ile Met Pro Ser Val Phe Gly Thr Ile Cys Leu Leu Gly Ile Ile Gly Asn Ser Thr Val Ile Phe Ala Val Val Lys Lys Ser Lys Leu His Trp Cys Asn Asn Val Pro Asp Ile Phe Ile Ile Asn Leu Ser Val Val Asp Leu Leu Phe Leu Leu Gly Met Pro Phe Met Ile His Gln Leu Met Gly Asn Gly Val Trp His Phe Gly Glu Thr Met Cys Thr Leu Ile Thr Ala Met Asp Ala Asn Ser Gln Phe Thr Ser Thr Tyr Ile Leu Thr Ala Met Ala Ile Asp Arg Tyr Leu Ala Thr Val His Pro Ile Ser Ser Thr Lys Phe Arg Lys Pro Ser Met Ala Thr Leu Val Ile Cys Leu Leu Trp Ala Leu Ser Phe Ile Ser Ile Thr Pro Val Trp Leu Tyr Ala Arg Leu Ile Pro Phe Pro Gly Gly Ala Val Gly Cys Gly Ile Arg Leu Pro Asn Pro Asp Thr Asp Leu Tyr Trp Phe Thr Leu Tyr Gln Phe Phe Leu Ala Phe Ala Leu Pro Phe Val Val Ile Thr Ala Ala Tyr Val Lys Ile Leu Gln Arg Met Thr Ser Ser Val Ala Pro Ala Ser Gln Arg Ser Ile Arg Leu Arg Thr Lys Arg Val Thr Arg 245 250 255 Thr Ala Ile Ala Ile Cys Leu Val Phe Phe Val Cys Trp Ala Pro Tyr Tyr Val Leu Gln Leu Thr Gln Leu Ser Ile Ser Arg Pro Thr Leu Thr Phe Val Tyr Leu Tyr Asn Ala Ala Ile Ser Leu Gly Tyr Ala Asn Ser Cys Leu Asn Pro Phe Val Tyr Ile Val Leu Cys Glu Thr Phe Arg Lys Arg Leu Val Leu Ser Val Lys Pro Ala Ala Gln Gly Gln Leu Arg Thr Val Ser Asn Ala Gln Thr Ala Asp Glu Glu Arg Thr Glu Ser Lys Gly Thr Val Asp Gly Thr Ala Gly Pro Gly Ser Ile Ala Thr Met Val Ser Lys Gly Glu Glu Leu Phe Thr Gly Val Val Pro Ile Leu Val Glu Leu Asp Gly Asp Val Asn Gly His Lys Phe Ser Val Ser Gly Glu Gly Glu 385 390 395 Gly Asp Ala Thr Tyr Gly Lys Leu Thr Leu Lys Phe Ile Cys Thr Thr Gly Lys Leu Pro Val Pro Trp Pro Thr Leu Val Thr Thr Leu Thr Tyr Gly Val Gln Cys Phe Ser Arg Tyr Pro Asp His Met Lys Gln His Asp Phe Phe Lys Ser Ala Met Pro Glu Gly Tyr Val Gln Glu Arg Thr Ile Phe Phe Lys Asp Asp Gly Asn Tyr Lys Thr Arg Ala Glu Val Lys Phe 465 470 480 Glu Gly Asp Thr Leu Val Asn Arg Ile Glu Leu Lys Gly Ile Asp Phe

Lys Glu Asp Gly Asn Ile Leu Gly His Lys Leu Glu Tyr Asn Tyr Asn Ser His Asn Val Tyr Ile Met Ala Asp Lys Gln Lys Asn Gly Ile Lys Val Asn Phe Lys Ile Arg His Asn Ile Glu Asp Gly Ser Val Gln Leu Ala Asp His Tyr Gln Gln Asn Thr Pro Ile Gly Asp Gly Pro Val Leu 545 Leu Pro Asp Asn His Tyr Leu Ser Thr Gln Ser Ala Leu Ser Lys Asp Pro Asn Glu Lys Arg Asp His Met Val Leu Glu Phe Val Thr Ala Ala Gly Ile Thr Leu Gly Met Asp Glu Leu Tyr Lys

<210> 14 <211> 673

<212> PRT

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> MCH1R-linker-EGFP

<400> 14 Met Ser Val Gly Ala Met Lys Lys Gly Val Gly Arg Ala Val Gly Leu Gly Gly Gly Ser Gly Cys Gln Ala Thr Glu Glu Asp Pro Leu Pro Asn Cys Gly Ala Cys Ala Pro Gly Gln Gly Gly Arg Arg Trp Arg Leu Pro Gln Pro Ala Trp Val Glu Gly Ser Ser Ala Arg Leu Trp Glu Gln Ala 50 55 60 Thr Gly Thr Gly Trp Met Asp Leu Glu Ala Ser Leu Leu Pro Thr Gly Pro Asn Ala Ser Asn Thr Ser Asp Gly Pro Asp Asn Leu Thr Ser Ala Gly Ser Pro Pro Arg Thr Gly Ser Ile Ser Tyr Ile Asn Ile Ile Met Pro Ser Val Phe Gly Thr Ile Cys Leu Leu Gly Ile Ile Gly Asn Ser Thr Val Ile Phe Ala Val Val Lys Lys Ser Lys Leu His Trp Cys Asn Asn Val Pro Asp Ile Phe Ile Ile Asn Leu Ser Val Val Asp Leu Leu Phe Leu Leu Gly Met Pro Phe Met Ile His Gln Leu Met Gly Asn Gly Val Trp His Phe Gly Glu Thr Met Cys Thr Leu Ile Thr Ala Met Asp Ala Asn Ser Gln Phe Thr Ser Thr Tyr Ile Leu Thr Ala Met Ala Ile Asp Arg Tyr Leu Ala Thr Val His Pro Ile Ser Ser Thr Lys Phe Arg Lys Pro Ser Met Ala Thr Leu Val Ile Cys Leu Leu Trp Ala Leu Ser 225 230 235 Phe Ile Ser Ile Thr Pro Val Trp Leu Tyr Ala Arg Leu Ile Pro Phe Pro Gly Gly Ala Val Gly Cys Gly Ile Arg Leu Pro Asn Pro Asp Thr 260 265 270 Asp Leu Tyr Trp Phe Thr Leu Tyr Gln Phe Phe Leu Ala Phe Ala Leu Pro Phe Val Val Ile Thr Ala Ala Tyr Val Lys Ile Leu Gln Arg Met

```
Thr Ser Ser Val Ala Pro Ala Ser Gln Arg Ser Ile Arg Leu Arg Thr
                                         315
                     310
Lys Arg Val Thr Arg Thr Ala Ile Ala Ile Cys Leu Val Phe Phe Val
                                                          335
                                     330
                325
Cys Trp Ala Pro Tyr Tyr Val Leu Gln Leu Thr Gln Leu Ser Ile Ser
                                                      350
                                 345
Arg Pro Thr Leu Thr Phe Val Tyr Leu Tyr Asn Ala Ala Ile Ser Leu
                             360
        355
Gly Tyr Ala Asn Ser Cys Leu Asn Pro Phe Val Tyr Ile Val Leu Cys
                                             380
                         375
Glu Thr Phe Arg Lys Arg Leu Val Leu Ser Val Lys Pro Ala Ala Gln
                                          395
                    390
Gly Gln Leu Arg Thr Val Ser Asn Ala Gln Thr Ala Asp Glu Glu Arg
                                                          415
                405
                                     410
Thr Glu Ser Lys Gly Thr Val Asp Gly Thr Ala Gly Pro Gly Ser Ile
                                                     430
                                 425
            420
Ala Thr Met Val Ser Lys Gly Glu Glu Leu Phe Thr Gly Val Val Pro
                                                  445
                             440
       435
Ile Leu Val Glu Leu Asp Gly Asp Val Asn Gly His Lys Phe Ser Val
                                             460
                         455
    450
Ser Gly Glu Gly Glu Gly Asp Ala Thr Tyr Gly Lys Leu Thr Leu Lys
                                          475
                     470
Phe Ile Cys Thr Thr Gly Lys Leu Pro Val Pro Trp Pro Thr Leu Val
                                                           495
                                     490
                 485
Thr Thr Leu Thr Tyr Gly Val Gln Cys Phe Ser Arg Tyr Pro Asp His
                                                      510
                                 505
            500
Met Lys Gln His Asp Phe Phe Lys Ser Ala Met Pro Glu Gly Tyr Val
                             520
                                                  525
        515
Gln Glu Arg Thr Ile Phe Phe Lys Asp Asp Gly Asn Tyr Lys Thr Arg
                                              540
                         535
    530
Ala Glu Val Lys Phe Glu Gly Asp Thr Leu Val Asn Arg Ile Glu Leu
                                          555
                     550
Lys Gly Ile Asp Phe Lys Glu Asp Gly Asn Ile Leu Gly His Lys Leu
                                                           575
                                      570
                 565
Glu Tyr Asn Tyr Asn Ser His Asn Val Tyr Ile Met Ala Asp Lys Gln
                                  585
                                                       590
             580
Lys Asn Gly Ile Lys Val Asn Phe Lys Ile Arg His Asn Ile Glu Asp
                             600
                                                  605
        595
Gly Ser Val Gln Leu Ala Asp His Tyr Gln Gln Asn Thr Pro Ile Gly
                                              620
                          615
    610
Asp Gly Pro Val Leu Leu Pro Asp Asn His Tyr Leu Ser Thr Gln Ser
                                          635
                     630
Ala Leu Ser Lys Asp Pro Asn Glu Lys Arg Asp His Met Val Leu Leu
                                     650
                                                           655
                 645
Glu Phe Val Thr Ala Ala Gly Ile Thr Leu Gly Met Asp Glu Leu Tyr
                                                       670
                                  665
             660
Lys
 <210> 15
 <211> 1269
 <212> DNA
 <213> Human
 <400> 15
 atgtcagtgg gagccatgaa gaagggagtg gggagggcag ttgggcttgg aggcggcagcggctgccagg ctacggagga agaccccctt cccaactgcg gggcttgcgc tccgggacaa
                                                                           60
                                                                          120
 ggtggcaggc gctggaggct gccgcagcct gcgtgggtgg aggggagctc agctcggttg
                                                                          180
 tgggagcagg cgaccggcac tggctggatg gacctggaag cctcgctgct gcccactggt
                                                                          240
 cccaacgcca gcaacacctc tgatggcccc gataacctca cttcggcagg atcacctcct
                                                                          300
 cgcacgggga gcatctccta catcaacatc atcatgcctt cggtgttcgg caccatctgc
                                                                          360
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ctcctgggca tcatcgggaa ctccacggtc atcttcgcgg tcgtgaagaa gtccaagctg

cactggtgca acaacgtccc tttctcctgg gcatgccctt ggggagacca tgtgcaccct tacatcctga ccgccatggc acgaagttcc ggaagccctc ttcatcagca tcaccctgt gtgggctgcg gcatacgcct cagttttcc tggcctttgc ctgcagcgca tgacgtcctc aagagggtga cccgcacagc tactatgtgc tacagcttac gggcatcag ggcacctga	catgatccac catcacggcc cattgaccgc tgtggccacc gtggctgtat gcccaaccca cctgccttt agtggccccc catcgccatc ccagttgtcc cttgggctat ccgcaaacgc	cageteatgg atggatgeca tacetggeca ctggtgatet gecagaetea gacaetgaee gtggteatea geeteeage tgtetggtet ateageegee gecaaeaget ttggteetgt	gcaatggggt atagtcagtt ctgtccaccc gcctcctgtg tccccttccc tctactggtt cagccgcata gcagcatccg tctttgtgtg cgaccctcac gcctcaaccc cggtgaagcc	giggcacttt caccagcacc catctctcc ggccctctcc aggaggtgca caccctgtac cgtgaggatc gctgcggaca ctggggaca cttgtctac ctttgtctac tgcagcccag	480 540 600 660 720 780 840 900 960 1020 1140 1200 1260 1269
<210> 16 <211> 1062 <212> DNA <213> Human					
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2100

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PCT/US01/08071 WO 01/68706

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220> <223> PCR primer

<400> 37 gctctagagt cgcggccgct tacttgtaca gctcgtcc

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No. PCT/US01/08071

IPC(7) : US CL :	SSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER CO7K 14/72, 19/00; C12N 15/62 435/69.7, 252.3, 320.1; 530/350; 536/23.4 International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both 1	national classification and IPC	
	DS SEARCHED		
	ocumentation searched (classification system followed	by classification symbols)	
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U.S. :	435/69.7, 252.3, 320.1; 530/350; 536/23.4		1
Documentati	ion searched other than minimum documentation to the e	extent that such documents are included in the fields searched	1
STN, MI		me of data base and, where practicable, search terms used oncentrating hormone receptor#	,
C. DOC	UMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where app	propriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim	im No.
Y	NELSON et al. Characterization of Gonadotropin-Releasing Hormone Rec Binding on Receptor Lateral Diffusion 1999. Vol. 140. No. 2. pages 950-957	ceptor and Effects of Ligand n. Endocrinology. February	
Y	AWAJI et al. Real-Time Optical Mon Internalization of alpha1b-Adrenorecer Protein. Molecular Endocrinology. A pages 1099-1111, see entire document.	ptor with Green Fluorescent August 1998. Vol. 12. No. 8.	
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X Purt	her documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.	See patent family annex.	
• Sp	pecial entegaries of cited documents:	"T" later document published after the international filing date or date and not in conflict with the application but cited to use	
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	rlier document published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention of considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an invention	
"L" do	cument which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is	when the document is taken alone	
	ted to establish the publication data of snother citation or other social reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention of considered to involve an inventive step when the docu	
	comment referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other	combined with one or more other such documents, such com being obvious to a person skilled in the art	bination
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	actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report	
21 JUNE	2001	03 JUL2001	
Name and	mailing address of the ISA/US	Authorized officer JOHN D. ULM Authorized Officer) _
Commissi Box PCT	oner of Patents and Trademarks	JOHN D. ULM WAS WALLY	
Washingto	on, D.C. 20231	Telephone No. (703) 308-0196	
I Maccimile	No. (703) 305-3230		

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US01/08071

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Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant	nt passages	Relevant to claim No
	BACHNER et al. Identification of Melanin Concentration (MCH) as the Natural Ligand for the Orphan Somatosta Receptor 1 (SLC-1). FEBS Letters. 03 September 1999. No.3. pages 522-524, see entire document.	1-30	
	SALRO et al. Molecular Characterization of the Melani Concentrating-Hormone Receptor. Nature. 15 July 199 pages 265-269, see entire document.	1-30	
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